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CIGUATERA

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古谷実

MINORU FURUYA

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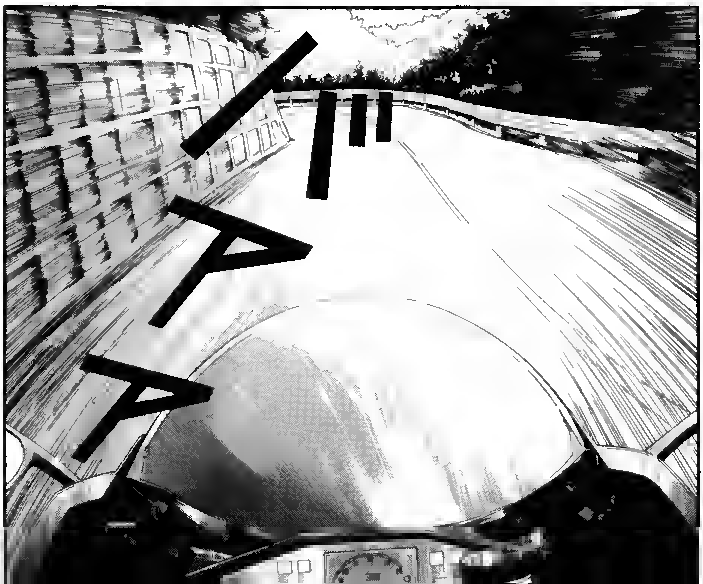
Chapter 35: Class Change

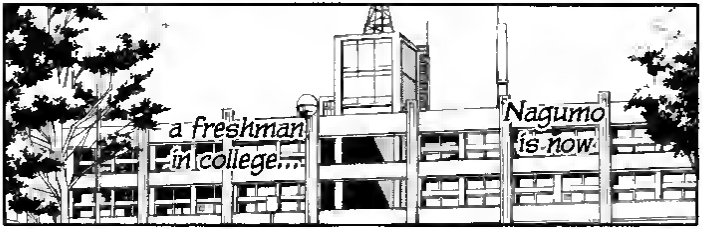


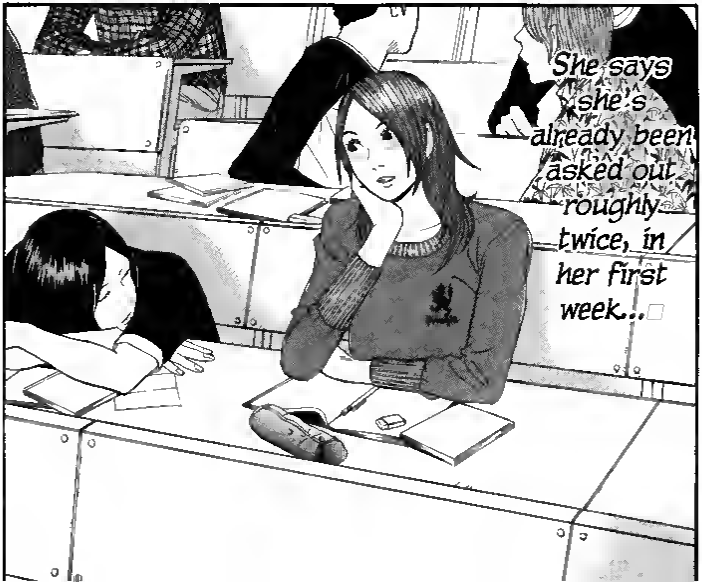
racing
aprilia
Spring
パン
パン
パン

I've finally gotten my own road machine.
I'm a high school senior now...
I could have had plenty of nice bikes that were cheaper,
but after the episode where I "nearly" got my hands on one,
I decided that the Aprilia RS 250 was the motorcycle for me.
Now I'm taking the machine I went into debt with my parents to buy
for an early-morning ride into the lonely hills.

I've nearly died several times already.
PWAAGH!!
KA KA KA
Phew
Despite the terror... Despite my suckiness... There was at least one turn every few that I would nail really nicely (I think).
And that pleasure... that immeasurable, unimaginable thrill far surpassed anything I could have expected...
MOM WOULD CRY IF SHE SAW ME NOW...
GEEZ... I'M SUCH A TERRIBLE SON...
パパン!

Isn't it great to be born in Japan?!!
What's up all you spoiled first-world brats living in peace and luxury!!
Yeaaah, this is AWE-SOME!! THIS is the meaning of life!!


a freshman in college...
Nagumo is now


She says she's already been asked out roughly twice, in her first week...

about a month after the incident,

As for Taniwaki,

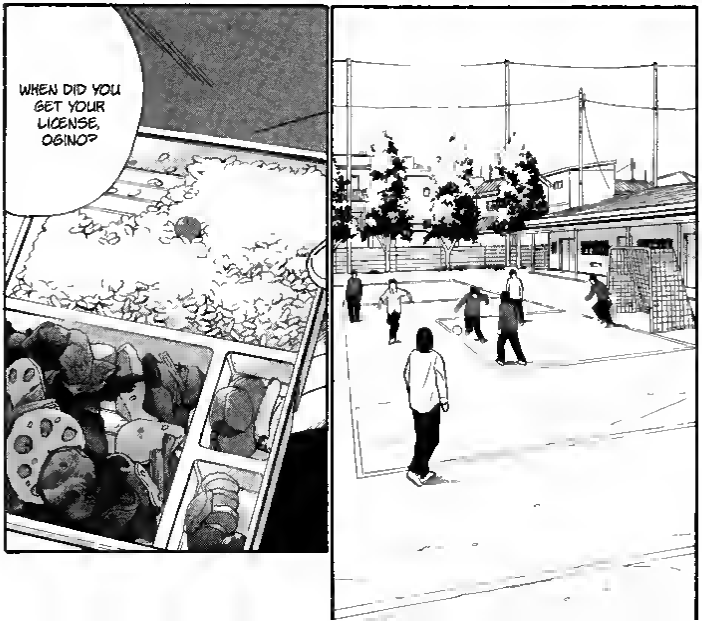
The school decided "We need to get him out of here," and traveled to his neighborhood to catch him in the act...
When he had finally shown his face again, the school problem child now with two missing ears...
3-C
IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS IF ANYONE WAS COMING THE OTHER WAY. BETTER PULL WIDER.
..WHY DO I ALWAYS PULL TOO FAR IN WHEN TURNING RIGHT?
..THINK I'LL SKIP WORK TODAY..
UGH.. I AM SO TIRED..

Book Bike Maintenance First Manual

...DOES HE HAVE A BIKE TOO?
THAT'S RIGHT... IT'S SAITO...
...
H... HEY, SAITO

..DO YOU LIKE MOTOR CYCLES?
..YEAH..
HUH? UHH.
..WELL YEAH
DO YOU HAVE A MOTOR-CYCLE?
REALLY? YOU RIDE A 400? WOW, IS YOUR FAMILY RICH OR SOME-THING?
NO. ME AND MY OLDER BROTHER WENT IN ON IT TOGETHER
IT'S A HONDA.. AN RVF 400

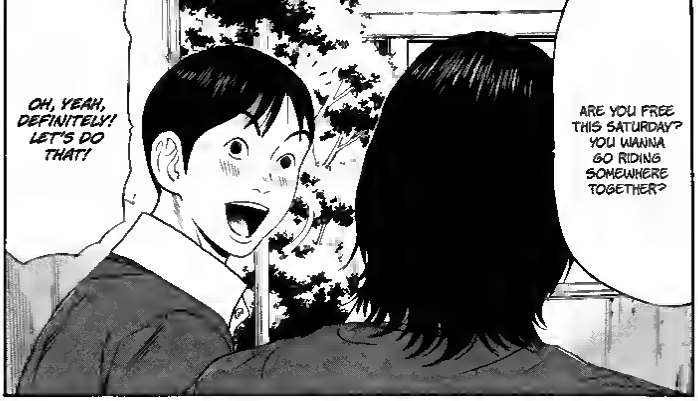
YEAH, AN APRILIA 250
DO YOU HAVE A BIKE?
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OH, NO WAY. I GOT A USED ONE WITH 36,000 KM ON IT AND I OWE MY PARENTS A TON OF MONEY NOW
GEEZ, AREN'T YOU RICH? A HIGH-SCHOOLER ON AN ITALIAN BIKE?
YEAH..
WELL TALK TO YOU LATER
ALL RIGHT CLASS, EVERYONE IN YOUR SEATS


WHEN DID YOU GET YOUR LICENSE, OGINO?

I JUST GOT IT, FINALLY.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
LAST YEAR AROUND SUMMER-TIME.
I BET IT WAS NICE TO HAVE A MACHINE THE INSTANT YOU GOT IT. YOU RIDE IT ALL OVER THE PLACE?
NOT AT ALL.. MY BROTHER PAID MORE THAN I DID, SO HE GETS TOTAL DIBS ON IT THE FIRST MONTH.
..YOU KNOW.. I WAS SURPRISED AT HOW I DIDN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS IN OUR NEW CLASS.. IT SUCKS.
YOU'RE THE FIRST COOL GUY I'VE REALLY TALKED TO AT ALL SINCE THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTED IN OUR CLASS I MEAN.
HAHA.. YEAH, ME TOO, I THINK..

..YOU KNOW.. YOU'RE LUCKY, OSINO..
HUH? WHY?
I MEAN THAT THAT TANIWAKI GUY'S GONE NOW..
OH.. YEAH.
I MEAN, HE MADE YOU DO ALL THOSE THINGS FOR HIM.
EVERY TIME I SAW YOU RUNNING AROUND I THOUGHT "THAT COULD HAVE BEEN ME"
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
OH.. JUST... IT WAS ONLY YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE IN HIS CLASS, AND NOT ME...

IF I WAS STUCK WITH HIM INSTEAD IT COULD HAVE BEEN ME RUNNING AROUND DOING ERRANDS.
IT'S ALWAYS THE LITTLEST THINGS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE.
NO I MEAN I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE IT SOUND LIKE "YOU WERE UNLUCKY" OR ANYTHING.
SORRY DID THAT MAKE YOU MAD?
NO I UNDERSTAND IT'S COOL.
BY THE WAY IS IT TRUE HE GOT HIS EARS CUT OFF BY YAKUZA?
BECAUSE HE TOOK THAT YAKUZA KID'S MONEY IN CLASS B.
WELL I DUNNO...
I'M NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED
...
...OH YEAH...


ARE YOU FREE THIS SATURDAY? YOU WANNA GO RIDING SOMEWHERE TOGETHER?
OH, YEAH, DEFINITELY! LET'S DO THAT!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO? USE THE FREEWAY AND GO TO THE BEACH? LIKE A REAL LONG TRIP?
YEAAAH! DUDE THAT WOULD BE THE BEST!!
SORRY! I'M JUST SO EXCITED, I'M GONNA CRY A LITTLE BIT!! SORRY!

I WANNA GO TOO!!
YEAH, LET'S DO THAT!!

NO, I WANT TO GO!! WHO CARES IF I RIDE WITH YOU GUYS? I WANNA GO!
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO HOLD OFF THIS TIME...
UH... SORRY I MEAN WE TOTALLY PLANNED IT OUT AS A TWO-PERSON THING... I'M SORRY

Ciguatera Chapter 35 - END

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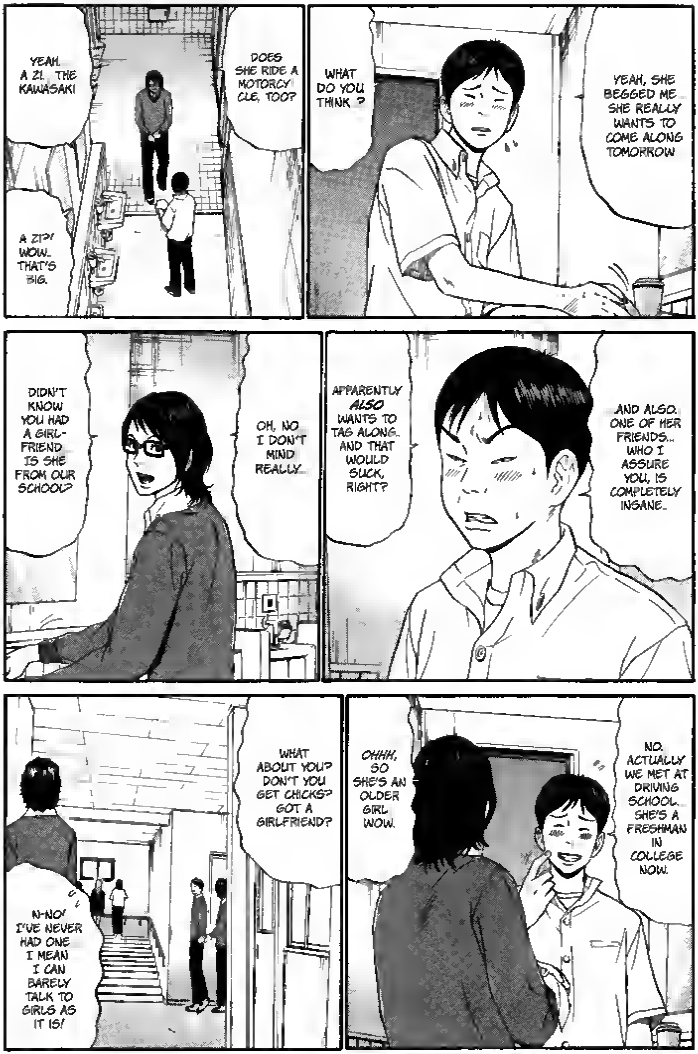
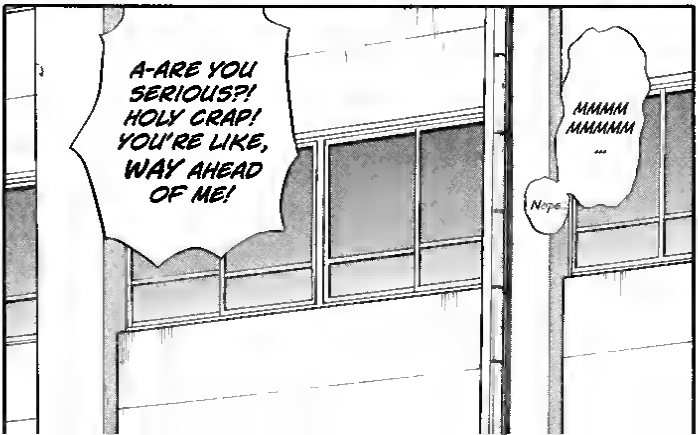
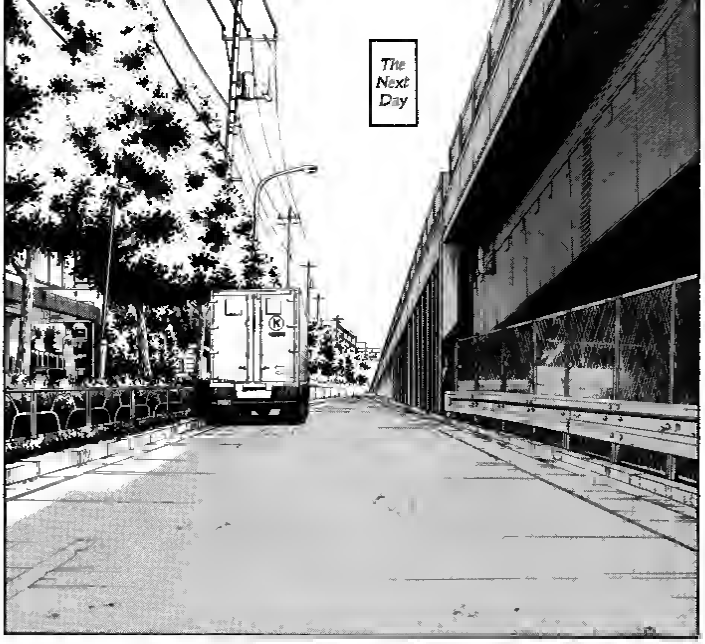
Chapter 36: Out Riding


YEAH. A ZI. THE KAWASAKI
DOES SHE RIDE A MOTORCYCLE, TOO?
A ZI?! WOW. THAT'S BIG.
WHAT DO YOU THINK ?
YEAH, SHE BEGGED ME SHE REALLY WANTS TO COME ALONG TOMORROW
DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A GIRLFRIEND IS SHE FROM OUR SCHOOL?
OH, NO I DON'T MIND REALLY...
APPARENTLY ALSO WANTS TO TAG ALONG.. AND THAT WOULD SUCK, RIGHT?
AND ALSO. ONE OF HER FRIENDS... WHO I ASSURE YOU, IS COMPLETELY INSANE..
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DON'T YOU GET CHICKS? GOT A GIRLFRIEND?
N-NO! I'VE NEVER HAD ONE I MEAN I CAN BARELY TALK TO GIRLS AS IT IS!
OHHH, SO SHE'S AN OLDER GIRL WOW.
NO. ACTUALLY WE MET AT DRIVING SCHOOL. SHE'S A FRESHMAN IN COLLEGE NOW.

HMMMM ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK ? SHE'S A LITTLE PLUMP, BUT SHE'S NICE!
OH YEAH, THE GIRL WHO SITS IN FRONT OF ME HIRAYAMA SHE ASKS ME ABOUT YOU SOMETIMES I THINK SHE'S GOT HER EYES ON YOU.

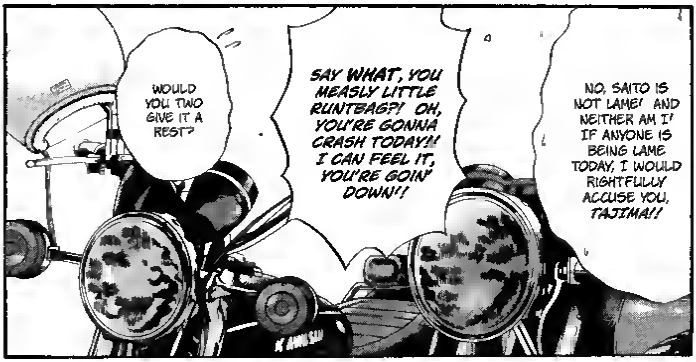
ARE YOU ALREADY, UH... NOT A VIRGIN?
UM. I MEAN JUST ASKING AS SOMEONE THE SAME AGE AS YOU...
HUH?
OH... I WAS JUST WONDERING.

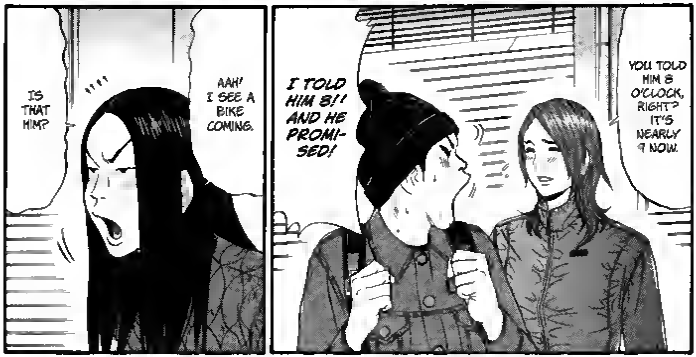

A-ARE YOU SERIOUS?! HOLY CRAP! YOU'RE LIKE, WAY AHEAD OF ME!
MMMM MMMMM ...
Nope.


The Next Day

HEY HEY HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL, HERE?!
DOES THIS SAITO KID NOT KNOW HOW TO TELL TIME, OR WHAT?!

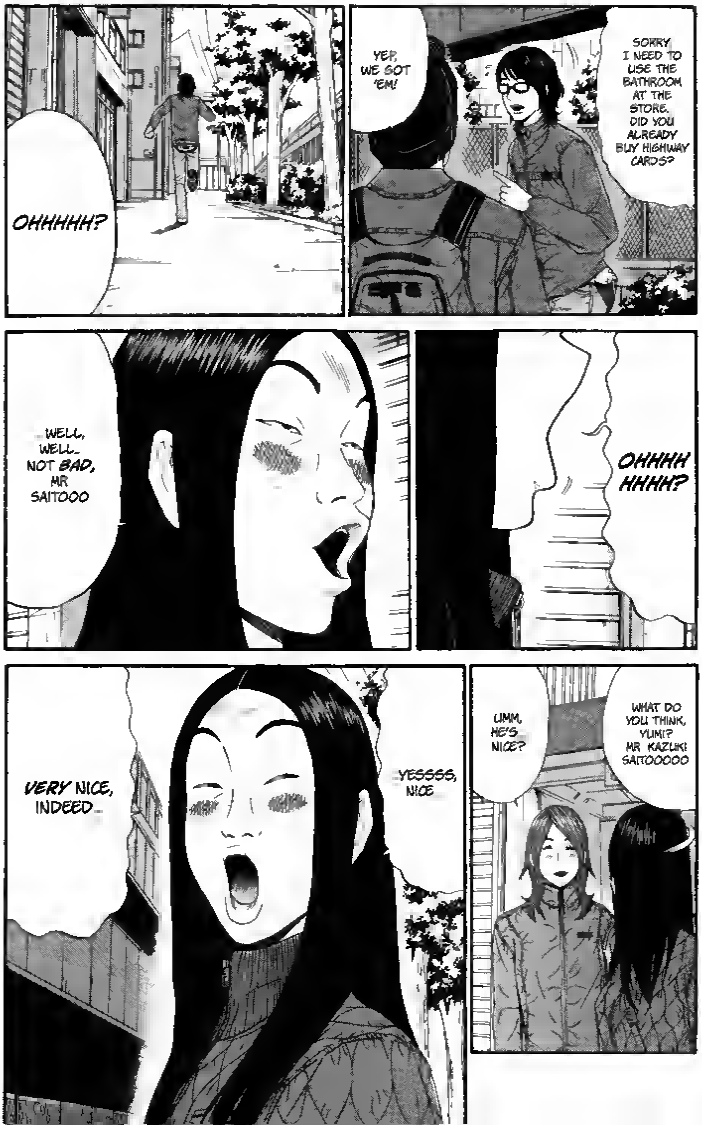
IS THERE ANYTHING RUDER THAN TO MAKE TWO GIRLS YOU HAVEN'T EVEN MET YET WAIT?!
BIRDS OF A FEATHER FLOCK TOGETHER, HUH! THAT'S WHY ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS ARE SO LAME!!


WOULD YOU TWO GIVE IT A REST?
SAY WHAT, YOU MEASLY LITTLE RUNTBAG?! OH, YOU'RE GONNA CRASH TODAY!! I CAN FEEL IT, YOU'RE GOIN' DOWN!!
NO, SAITO IS NOT LAME! AND NEITHER AM I! IF ANYONE IS BEING LAME TODAY, I WOULD RIGHTFULLY ACCUSE YOU, TAJIMA!!

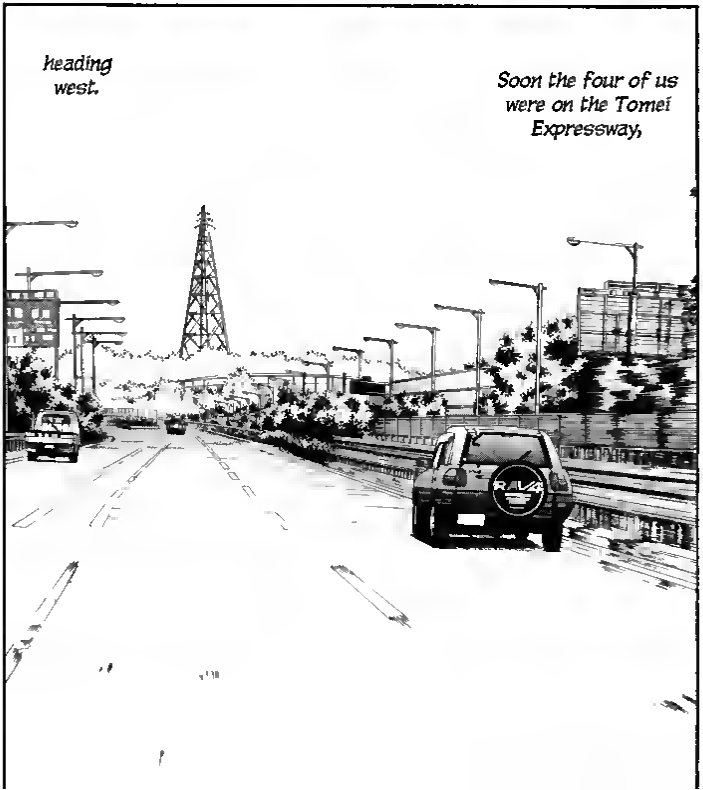

IS THAT HIM?
AAH! I SEE A BIKE COMING.
I TOLD HIM 8!! AND HE PROMISED!
YOU TOLD HIM 8 O'CLOCK, RIGHT? IT'S NEARLY 9 NOW.

ウォン
AHA, THERE HE IS!
HEEEEY, SAITO! OVER HERE, OVER HERE!!
HEY SAITO!! HOW'S IT GOING?!
HUH? YOU'RE ALL EARLY
HUH? YOU MEAN IT? THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID
umm, i told you to meet at 8 right?
AH-HA!! I KNEW IT!! YOU GOT THE TIME WRONG!! IT WAS ALL YOUR FAULT, AFTER ALL!!
S-SO WHAT?! IT'S BETTER THAN IF HE WAS LATE ON PURPOSE! COME ON GUYS, LET'S HAVE A NICE ROUSING ROUND OF INTRODUC-TIONS!!

UMM, THIS IS MY GIRLFRIEND, YUMI NAGUMO
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU.
AND I'M YUMI'S FRIEND AIKO TAJIMA.
I'M A BEGINNER SO EASY ON ME.
...HE'S A FOUR-EYES ...?
UMM... I'M KAZUKI SAITO
I'M PROBABLY THE BIGGEST BEGINNER OF ANY OF US.. SO ACTUALLY, PLEASE GO EASY ON ME...

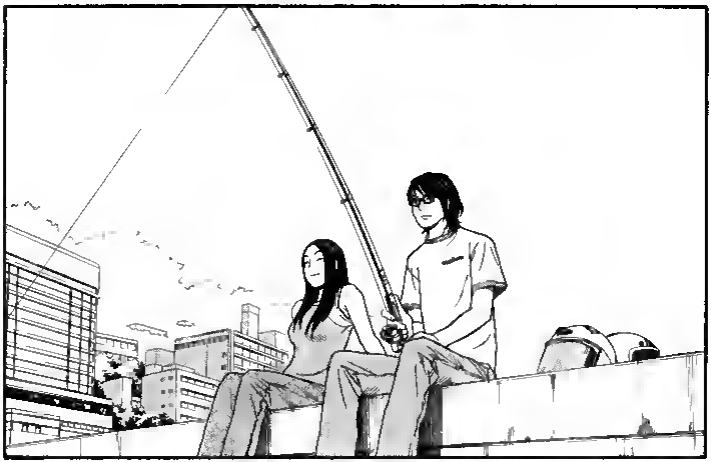

OHHHHH?
YEP, WE GOT 'EM!
SORRY, I NEED TO USE THE BATHROOM AT THE STORE. DID YOU ALREADY BUY HIGHWAY CARDS?
OHHHH HHHH?
WELL, WELL... NOT BAD, MR SAITOOO
VERY NICE, INDEED...
YESSSS, NICE
UMM, HE'S NICE?
WHAT DO YOU THINK, YUMI? MR KAZUKI SAITOOOOO

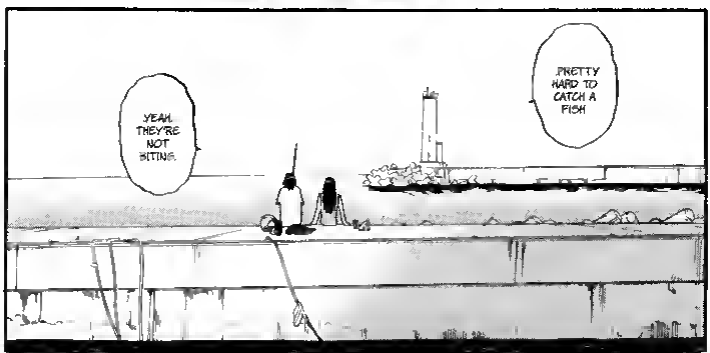
TAJIMA'S DEAD-SET ON HIM NOW
OH GOD.. SHE'S TERRIFYING ME
OH, DON'T BE SUCH A HARD-ASS!! WOW, THIS IS AWESOME! I ACTUALLY FEEL MOTIVATED FOR ONCE!!
W-WAIT A MINUTE! THIS ISN'T SOME GET-TOGETHER TO FIX YOU UP WITH HIM!
I FELT THE DOUBLE-COUNTER CUZ I WASN'T EXPECTING SHIT!
HEY DORK! NOT A BAD JOB, EH!

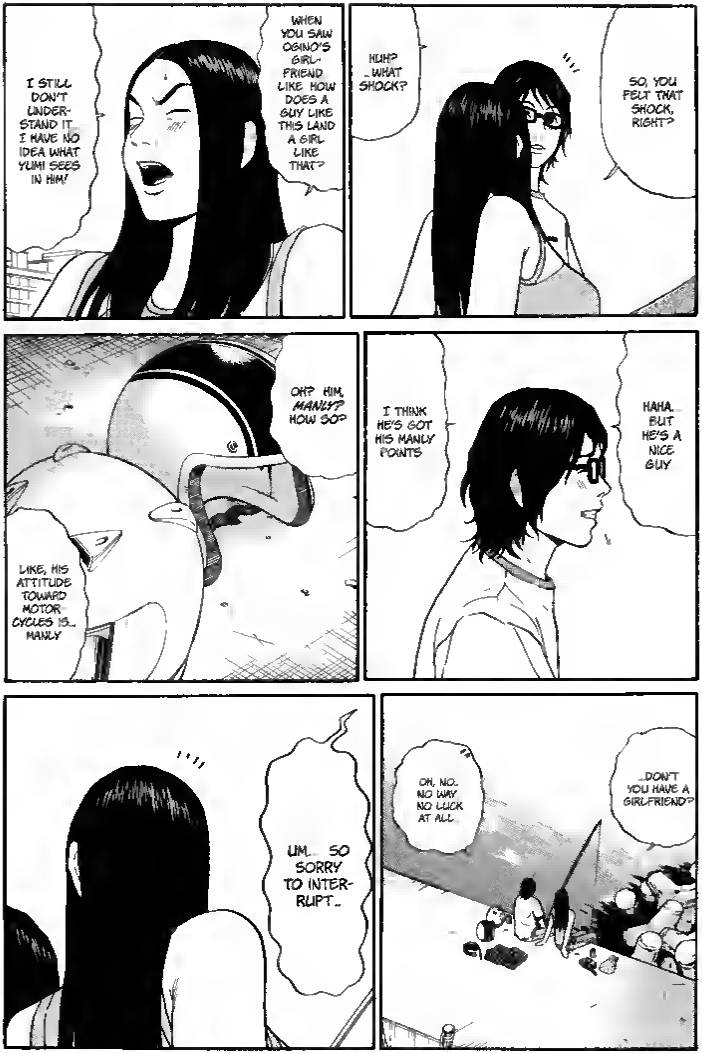

heading west.
Soon the four of us were on the Tomei Expressway,
RAV4

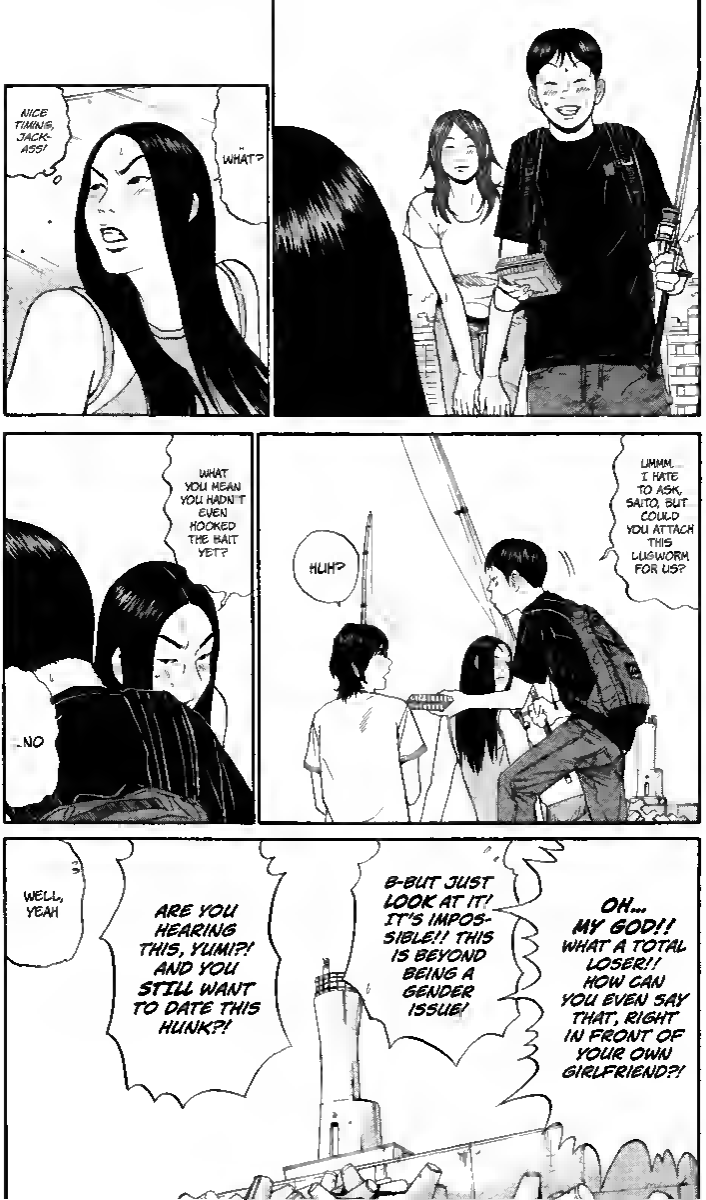
Initially...
The plan called for us to check out the winding curves of Hakone,
after a quick conference with Saito...
But with two girls now in the group,
And we wanted to see it happen with our own eyes...
That's a place where you can expect to see veteran riders zipping around tight curves at ridiculous speeds...
We changed our destination to "the Atami area."
西湖バイパス
SEISHO BY-PASS
湯河原 熱海
Yugawara Atami
箱根ターン
HAKONE TUR
小田原
Central O
この先
別料金

First thing, Tajima says let's go fishing.
貸します
We arrived shortly.
GRRR... SHE IS SO PUSHY.. SHE'LL MAKE USE OF ANYTHING SHE CAN
sha sha shaaa
TAJIMA'S LIKE A VULTURE CIRCLING FAR OVERHEAD HER PREY
In a fishing competition with lunch expenses on the line
Soon enough, we're separated into Tajima-Saito and Ogino-Nagumo pairs,
clack
SO, WHAT'S A LUG-WORM?
I DUNNO... A WORM ?
UGGGGGGH!!




PRETTY HARD TO CATCH A FISH
YEAH. THEY'RE NOT BITING.

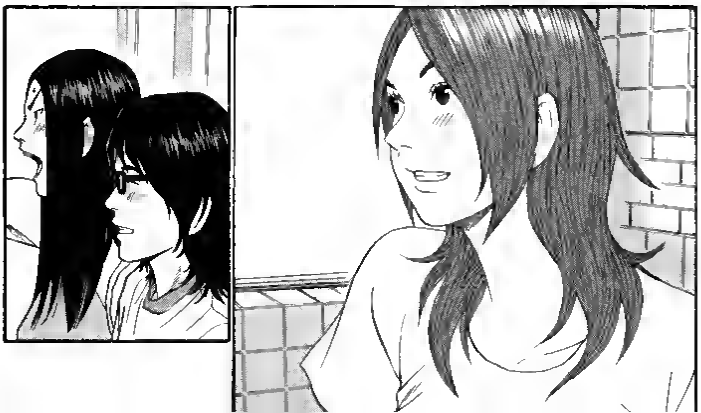

SO, YOU FELT THAT SHOCK, RIGHT?
HUH? ...WHAT SHOCK?
WHEN YOU SAW OGINO'S GIRL-FRIEND LIKE HOW DOES A GUY LIKE THIS LAND A GIRL LIKE THAT?
I STILL DON'T UNDER-STAND IT. I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YUMI SEES IN HIM!
HAHA... BUT HE'S A NICE GUY
I THINK HE'S GOT HIS MANLY POINTS
OH? HIM, MANLY? HOW SO?
LIKE, HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD MOTOR-CYCLES IS... MANLY
...DON'T YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
OH, NO. NO WAY. NO LUCK AT ALL...
UM... SO SORRY TO INTER-RUPT...


NICE TIMING, JACK-ASS!
WHAT?
WHAT YOU MEAN YOU HADN'T EVEN HOOKED THE BAIT YET?
..NO
HUH?
UMMM... I HATE TO ASK, SAITO, BUT COULD YOU ATTACH THIS LUGWORM FOR US?
WELL, YEAH
ARE YOU HEARING THIS, YUMI?! AND YOU STILL WANT TO DATE THIS HUNK?!
B-BUT JUST LOOK AT IT! IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!! THIS IS BEYOND BEING A GENDER ISSUE!
OH... MY GOD!! WHAT A TOTAL LOSER!! HOW CAN YOU EVEN SAY THAT, RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOUR OWN GIRLFRIEND?!

THEY'RE NUTS. A REAL PAIR OF LOONS, THERE.
HURRY, HURRY!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!! WE GOTTA WIN THIS THING!
THAAANKS!
YAHOOOO!
OKAY, THERE YOU GO.
In the end... our 3-hour fishing marathon
yielded one tiny, thumb-sized fish, and to the Tajima-Saito pair went the glory.

RESTAURANT
Astro
Astro
Astro
SIGHH... YOU KNOW I'M STILL KINDA BUMMED OUT..

SERIOUSLY, WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?! PLANS CHANGE; DEAL WITH IT!!
..WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE RACING AROUND THE CURVES OF HAKONE RIGHT ABOUT NOW..



...SO...
HE HAS SEX... WITH HER...

WOW...

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CIRCUITERA
IN FUC V UTH
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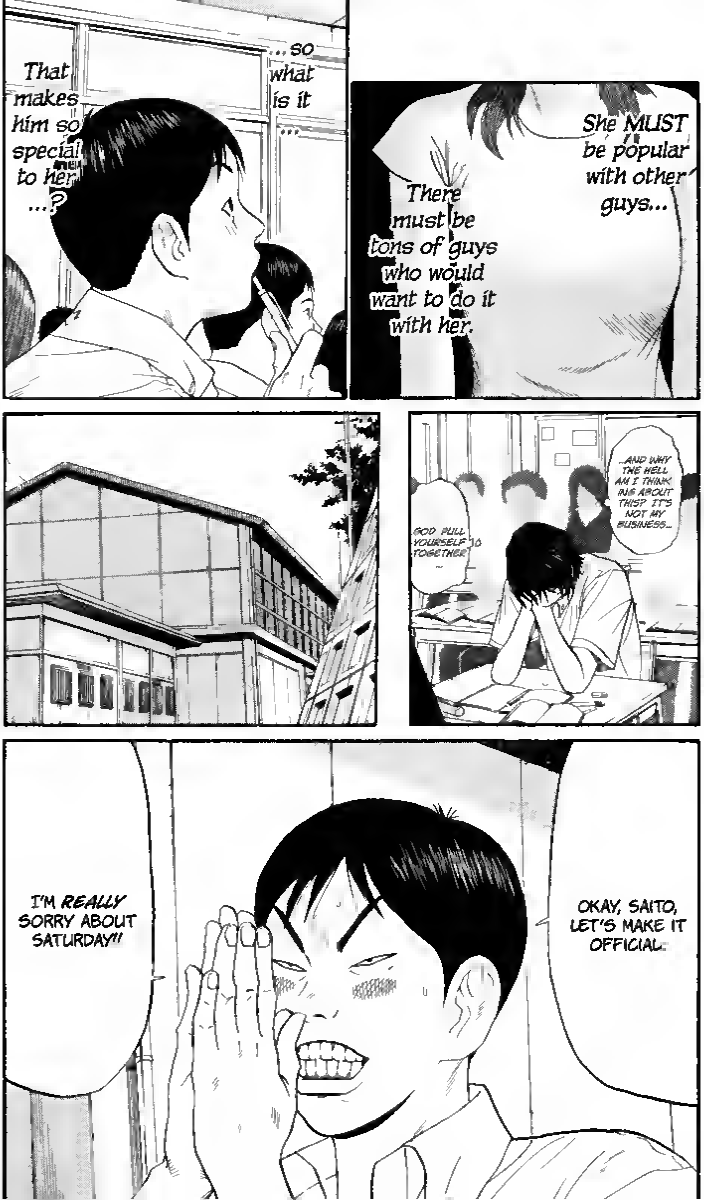
Chapter 37: Lost Cellphone

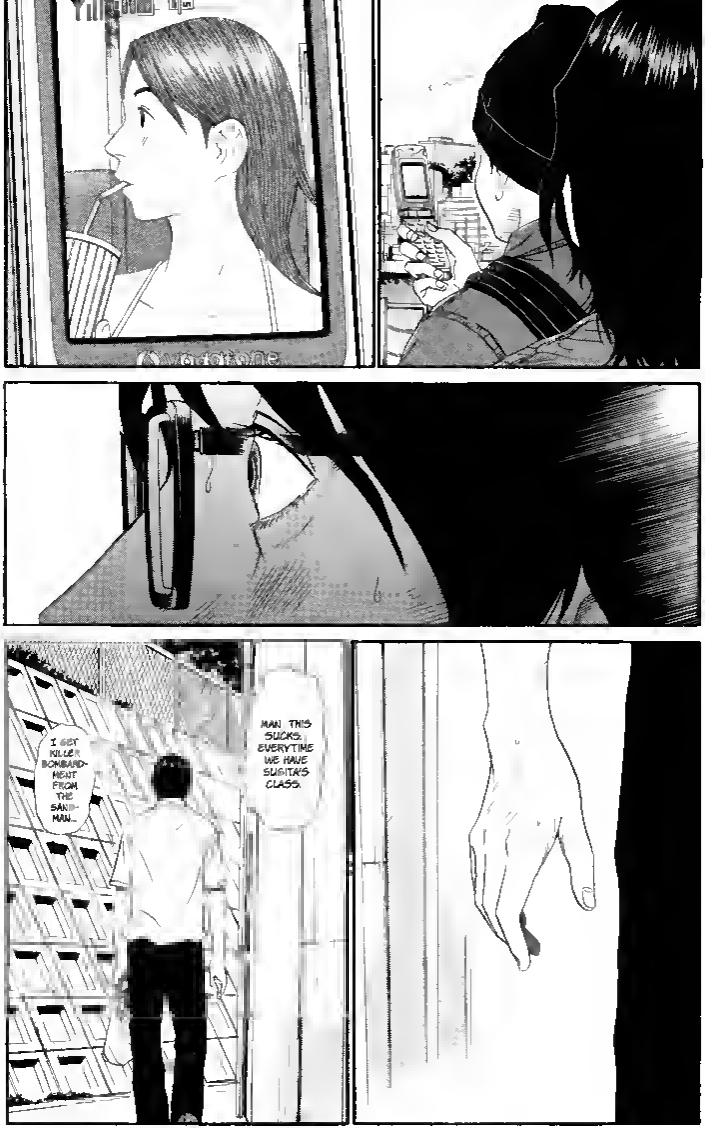
Ogino and her...
So...
Sex. mean-ing...
THE sex, right...?
...have sex...
...the one where her vagina...
penis.
is penetrated by his...

Not just once...
Over and over
and over and over


That makes him so special to her...?
...so what is it...
She MUST be popular with other guys...
There must be tons of guys who would want to do it with her.
AND WHY THE HELL AM I THINKING ABOUT THIS? IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS...
GOD, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER...
I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT SATURDAY!!
OKAY, SAITO, LET'S MAKE IT OFFICIAL.

...AND IT MUST HAVE BEEN ANNOYING PUTTING UP WITH THAT CRAZY CHICK, RIGHT?
HAHA... NO, IT WASN'T BAD
OH, I MEAN. INSTEAD OF WINDING AROUND HAKONE... WE GOT WRAPPED UP IN A RATHER SAD FISHING COMPETITION.
HUH.? WHAT FOR?
SHE WANTS TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT AGAIN.
OH NO! SHE HAD A TON OF FUN
LIKE, THAT IT WAS SO BORING SHE WAS ABOUT TO DIE...
WAS YOUR GIRLFRIEND ANGRY ABOUT IT, THOUGH?
OF COURSE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL HER IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!
OH YEAH... AND I MUST WARN YOU AIKO TAJIMA IS DEMANDING THAT I HAND YOU HER PHONE NUMBER PERSONALLY, OR ELSE SHE WILL MURDER ME
HAHA.
ALL THEY DID WAS TALK ABOUT HOW COOL YOU WERE AFTERWARD
IN THE END THEY WERE DEBATING OVER HOW UNFAIR IT WAS THAT I HAD A GIRLFRIEND AND YOU DIDN'T

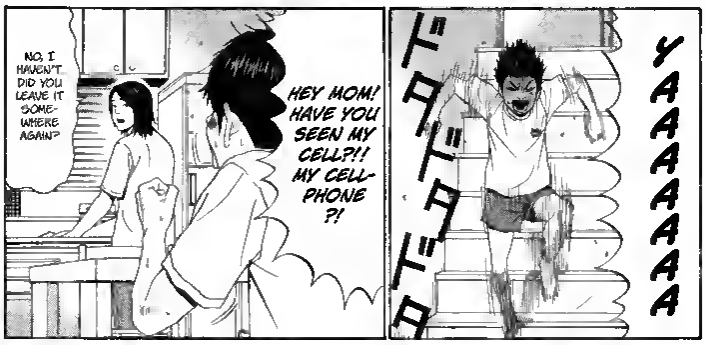
YEAH. HE MARKS YOU ABSENT IF YOU'RE 10 SECONDS LATE.
OH CRAP. WE HAVE SUGITA FOR MATH, NEXT. BETTER GET MOVING.
YEAH. AS LONG AS WE'RE CAREFUL NOT TO FALL.
LOTS OF TWISTS AND TURNS!
WELL, ANYWAYS WE SHOULD GO ON A TOTAL SPORTY TOUR NEXT TIME! JUST TWO GUYS.
O.
MMMM!


I GOT KILLED BOMBARDMENT FROM THE SAND-MAN...
MAN, THIS SUCKS. EVERYTIME WE HAVE SUBITAKS CLASS.

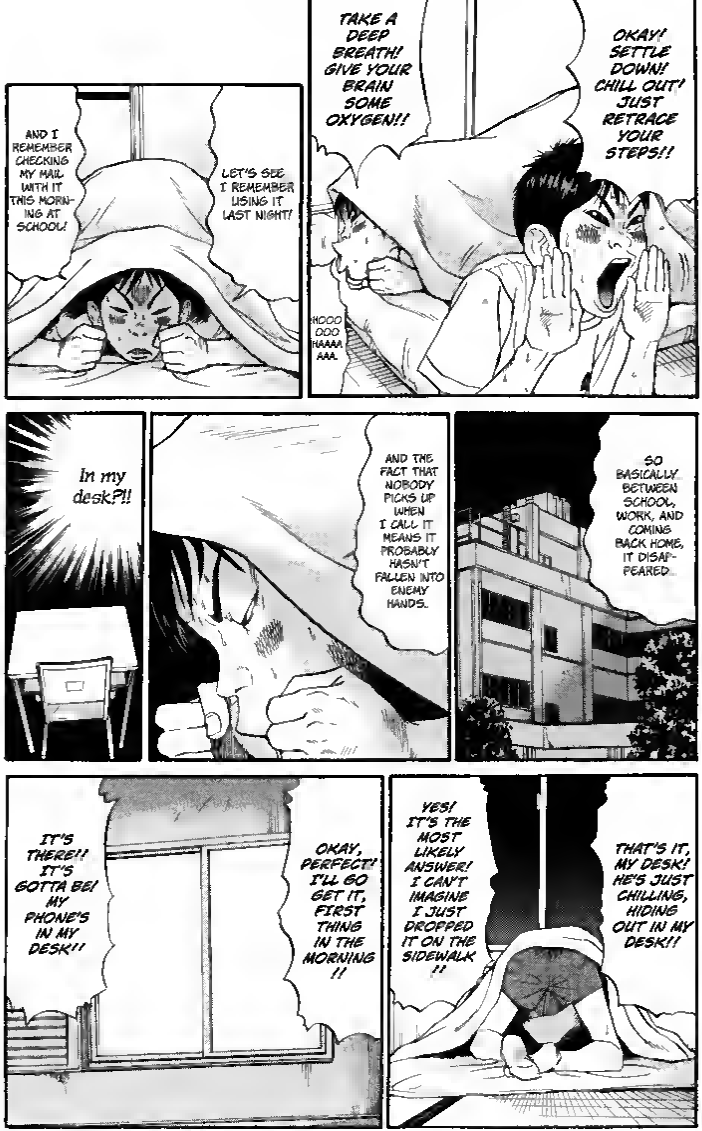
YEAH, PLUS IT'S RIGHT AFTER LUNCH...
THAT'S RIGHT... THE WORST.

GONE !!!!
GREGORY
GONE ?!!
IT'S GONE !!
GONE !!!!
GONE !! GONE !!

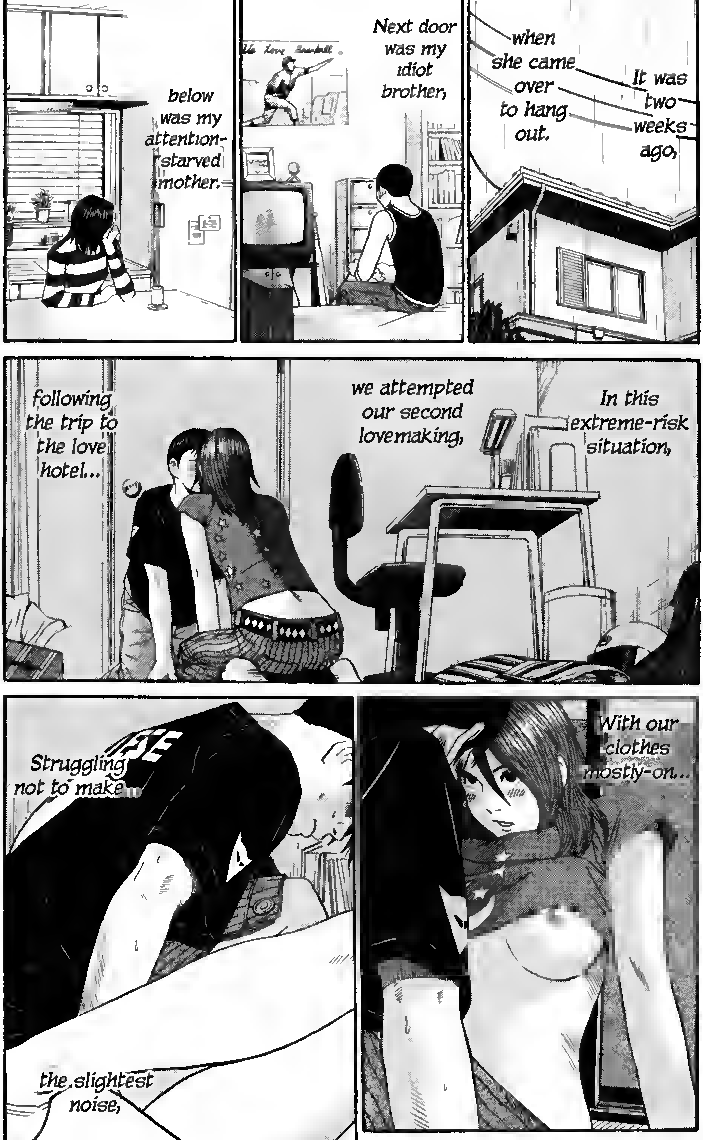
AAA AAA HHH HHH !!
MY CELL-PHONE IS GONE !!!

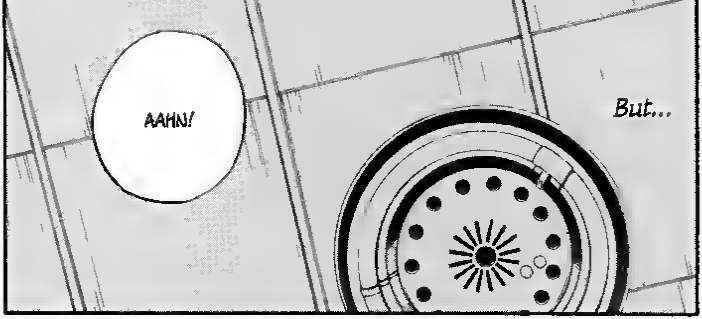

YAAAAAAA
HEY MOM! HAVE YOU SEEN MY CELL?! MY CELL-PHONE ?!
NO, I HAVEN'T. DID YOU LEAVE IT SOME-WHERE AGAIN?

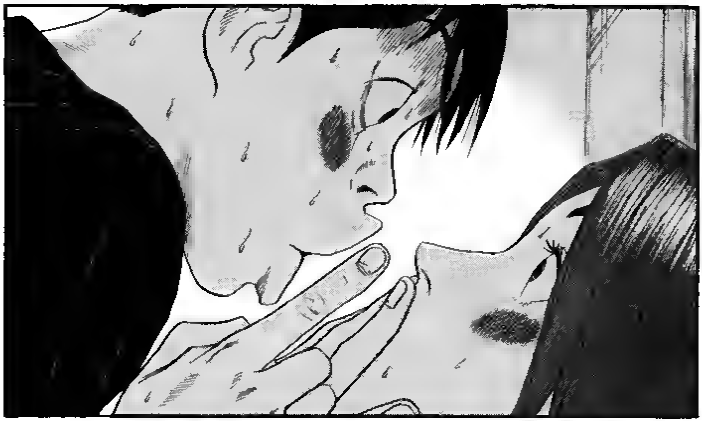
YARRRRGH!!
HEY, YOU! YOU TOOK IT, DIDN'T YOU?! YOU TOOK YOUR BROTH-ER'S CELL-PHONE!!
HELL NO!! I DON'T WANT THAT PIECE OF CRAP!!

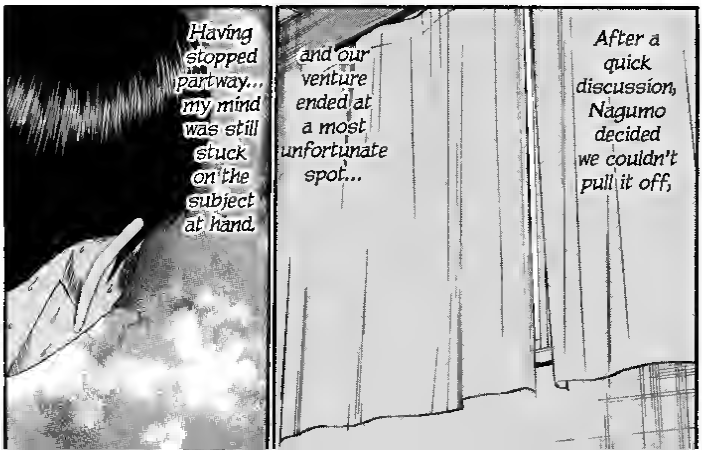

TAKE A DEEP BREATH! GIVE YOUR BRAIN SOME OXYGEN!!
OKAY! SETTLE DOWN! CHILL OUT! JUST RETRACE YOUR STEPS!!
HOOO OOO HAAAA AAA
LET'S SEE I REMEMBER USING IT LAST NIGHT!
AND I REMEMBER CHECKING MY MAIL WITH IT THIS MORNING AT SCHOOL!
In my desk?!!
AND THE FACT THAT NOBODY PICKS UP WHEN I CALL IT MEANS IT PROBABLY HASN'T FALLEN INTO ENEMY HANDS.
SO BASICALLY, BETWEEN SCHOOL, WORK, AND COMING BACK HOME, IT DISAPPEARED.
IT'S THERE!! IT'S GOTTA BE! MY PHONE'S IN MY DESK!!
OKAY, PERFECT! I'LL GO GET IT, FIRST THING IN THE MORNING !!
YES! IT'S THE MOST LIKELY ANSWER! I CAN'T IMAGINE I JUST DROPPED IT ON THE SIDEWALK !!
THAT'S IT, MY DESK! HE'S JUST CHILLING, HIDING OUT IN MY DESK!!

DON'T WANT TO WORRY HER FOR NOTHING.
IN OTHER WORDS NO REPORT TODAY.
IN OTHER WORDS... I DON'T WANT HER TO KILL ME...
I'LL TELL NAGUMO THE TRUTH.
AND IF IT JUST SO HAPPENS TO NOT BE THERE TOMORROW
just for losing my cellphone,
As for WHY my girlfriend would kill me
this was because I took pictures
of her naked bits with it.


below was my attention-starved mother.
Next door was my idiot brother,
when she came over to hang out.
It was two weeks ago,
following the trip to the love hotel...
we attempted our second lovemaking,
In this extreme-risk situation,
Struggling not to make
the slightest noise,
With our clothes mostly-on...


AAHN!
But...



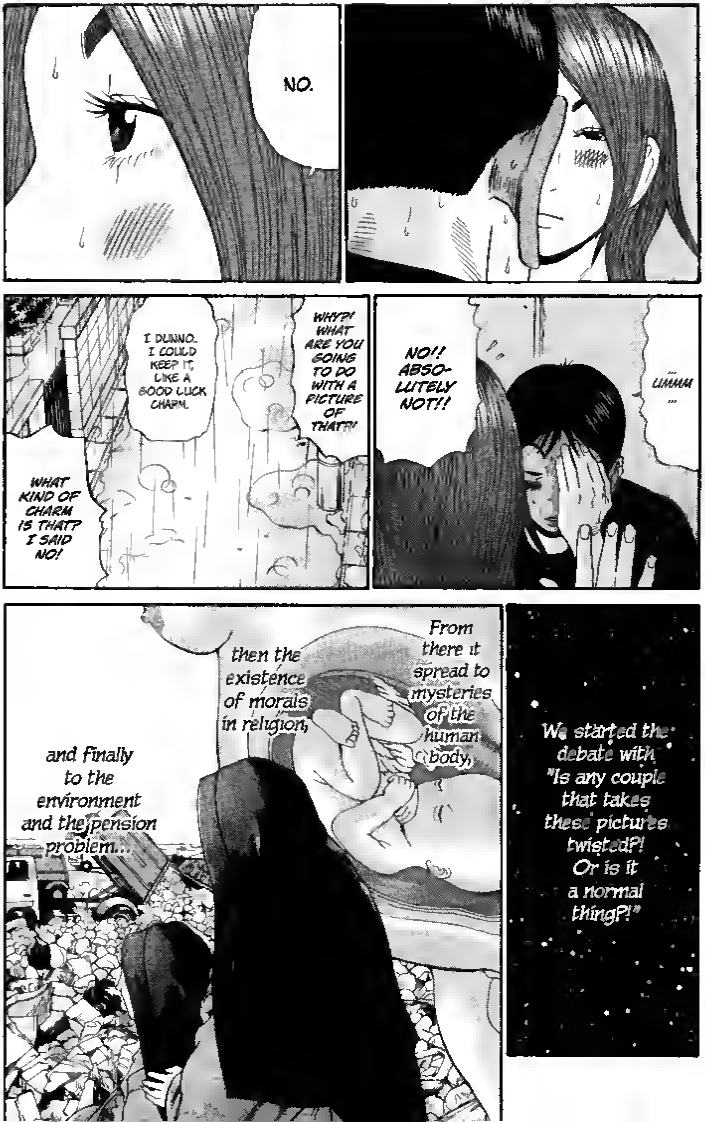

Having stopped partway... my mind was still stuck on the subject at hand.
and our venture ended at a most unfortunate spot...
After a quick discussion, Nagumo decided we couldn't pull it off,

And at my side, my cellphone...
There was Nagumo, squatting without any underwear on.

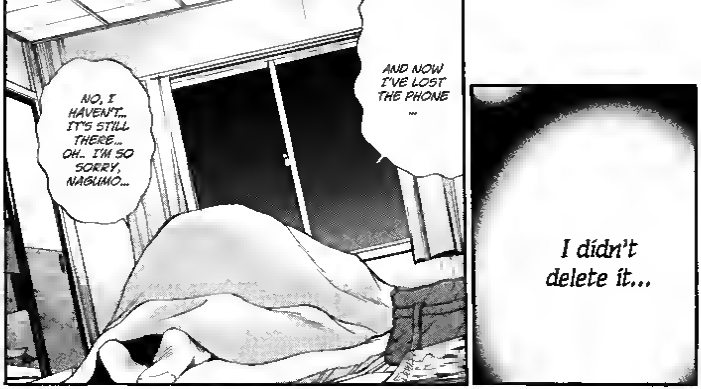
I remembered the photos of Akiko that Taniwaki had showed me...
In that instant,

CAN I TAKE A PICTURE OF THAT?

NAGUMO.
And I said something I never thought I would say.


NO.
WHY?! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH A PICTURE OF THAT?!
I DUNNO. I COULD KEEP IT LIKE A GOOD LUCK CHARM.
WHAT KIND OF CHARM IS THAT? I SAID NO!
NO!! ABSO-LUTELY NOT!!
...UHHH...
We started the debate with "Is any couple that takes these pictures twisted?! Or is it a normal thing?!"
From there it spread to mysteries of the human body,
then the existence of morals in religion,
and finally to the environment and the pension problem...

(1) Carry the phone everywhere except into the bath, like a samurai sword
(2) Delete it in three days
Provided that I hold to two conditions...
In the end, I was allowed to take one picture...
Click!
And finally... done
It was almost enough
to make me recoil, after taking it...
At a glance...
...you wouldn't even be able to tell what it was...


NO, I HAVEN'T... IT'S STILL THERE... OH.. I'M SO SORRY, NABUMO...
AND NOW I'VE LOST THE PHONE ...
I didn't delete it...

斉藤

Suna Saito

Ciguatera Chapter 37 - END

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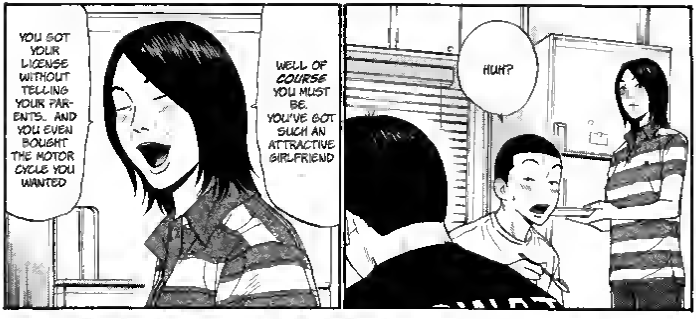
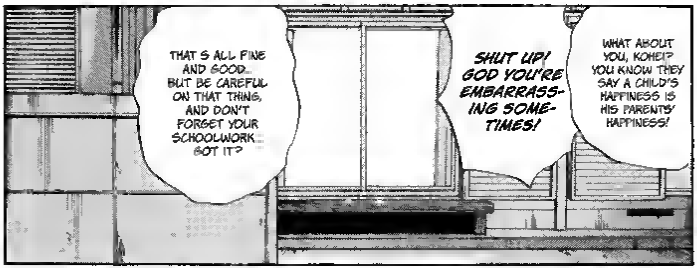
Chapter 38: Possibilities

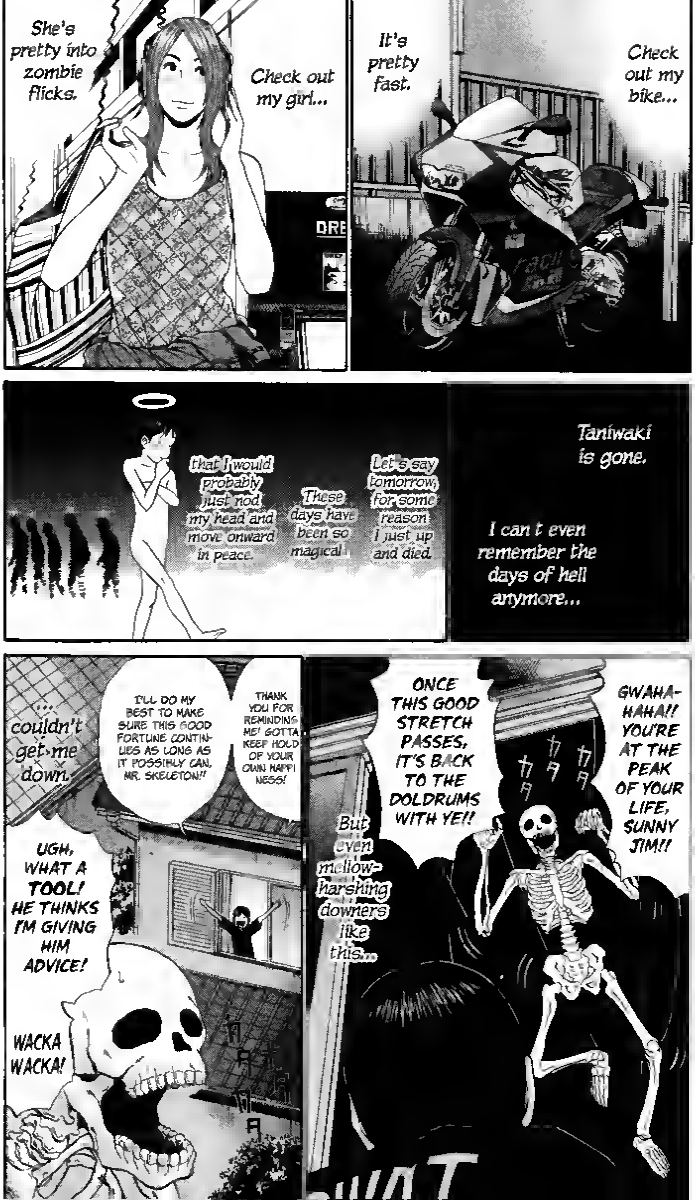
GAHA-HAHA! GAHA-HAHA!
I'm a lucky man.
It didn't fall into anyone else's hands,
and it didn't even get rained on.

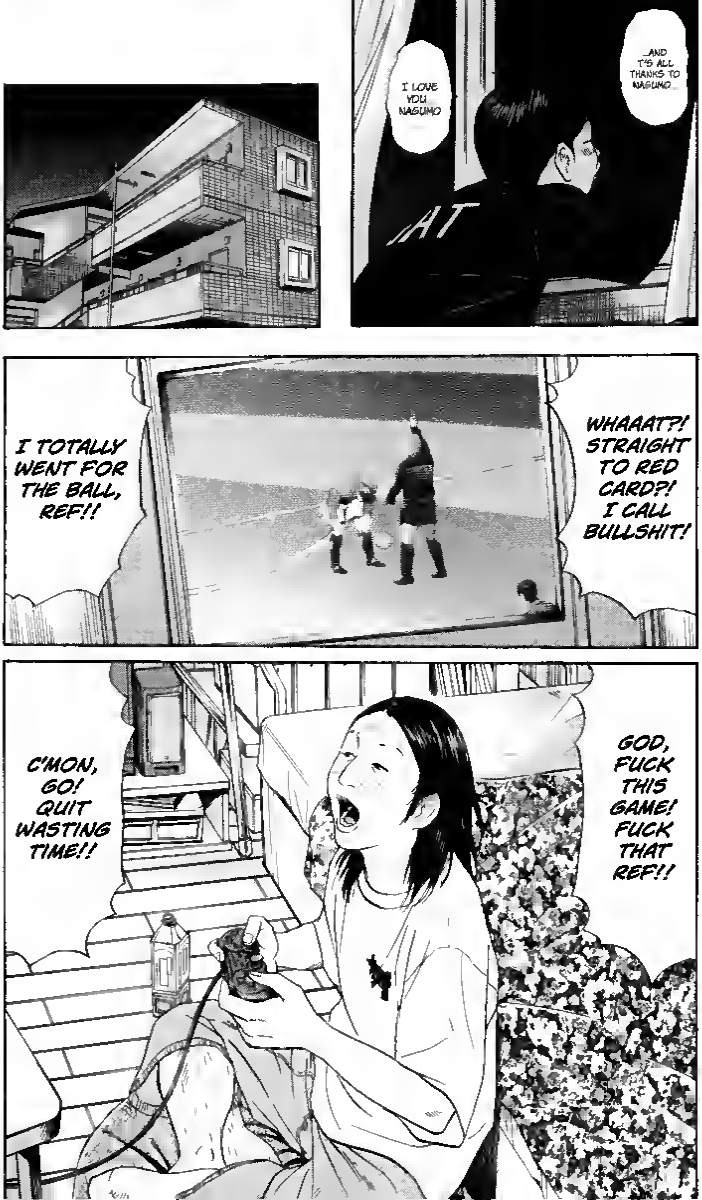
I AM VERY HAPPY WITH MY LIFE
SWAT
WHAT'S WRONG, YUSUKE? AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?
MOM...

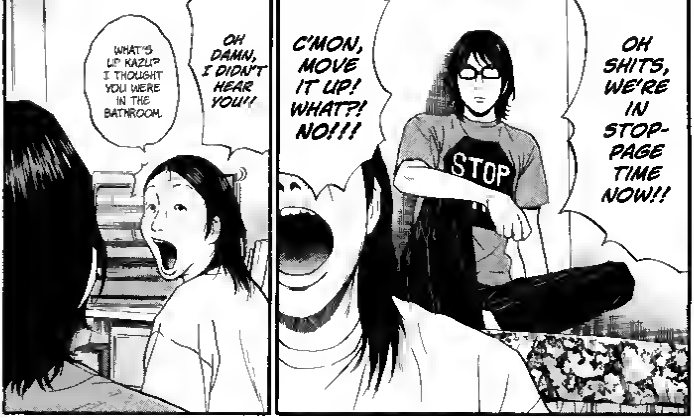

YOU GOT YOUR LICENSE WITHOUT TELLING YOUR PARENTS. AND YOU EVEN BOUGHT THE MOTOR CYCLE YOU WANTED
WELL OF COURSE YOU MUST BE. YOU'VE GOT SUCH AN ATTRACTIVE GIRLFRIEND
HUH?

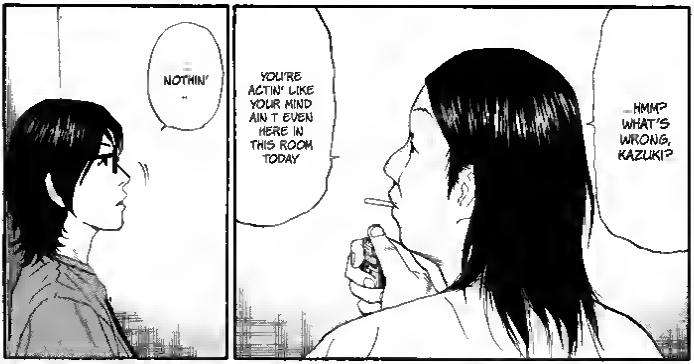

THAT'S ALL FINE AND GOOD... BUT BE CAREFUL ON THAT THING, AND DON'T FORGET YOUR SCHOOLWORK... GOT IT?
SHUT UP! GOD YOU'RE EMBARRASSING SOMETIMES!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KOHEI? YOU KNOW THEY SAY A CHILD'S HAPPINESS IS HIS PARENTS' HAPPINESS!

that I even had to tell my mom about it...
my life is so wonderfully delightful...
I'm so happy...


She's pretty into zombie flicks.
Check out my girl...
It's pretty fast.
Check out my bike...
Tanlwaki is gone.
I can't even remember the days of hell anymore...
Let's say tomorrow, for some reason I just up and died.
These days have been so magical
that I would probably just nod my head and move onward in peace.
....couldn't get me down.
I'LL DO MY BEST TO MAKE SURE THIS GOOD FORTUNE CONTINUES AS LONG AS IT POSSIBLY CAN, MR. SKELETON!!
THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME! GOTTA KEEP HOLD OF YOUR OWN HAPPINESS!
UGH, WHAT A TOOL! HE THINKS I'M GIVING HIM ADVICE!
WACKA WACKA!
ONCE THIS GOOD STRETCH PASSES, IT'S BACK TO THE DOLDRUMS WITH YE!!
But even mellow-harshing downers like this...
GWAHA-HAHA!! YOU'RE AT THE PEAK OF YOUR LIFE, SUNNY JIM!!


I LOVE YOU NAGUMO
...AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO NAGUMO...
I TOTALLY WENT FOR THE BALL, REF!!
WHAAAT?! STRAIGHT TO RED CARD?! I CALL BULLSHIT!
C'MON, GO! QUIT WASTING TIME!!
GOD, FUCK THIS GAME! FUCK THAT REF!!

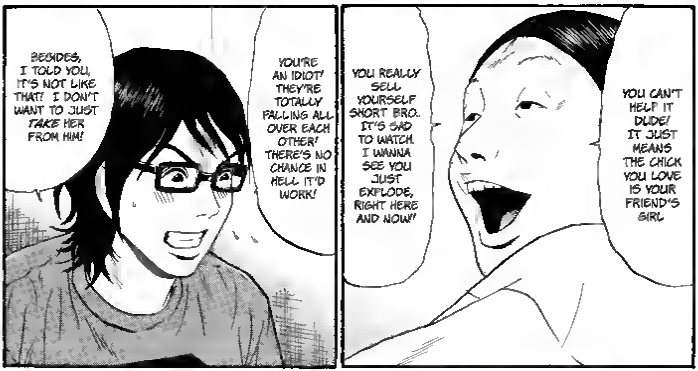

WHAT'S UP KAZU!? I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN THE BATHROOM.
OH DAMN, I DIDN'T HEAR YOU!!
C'MON, MOVE IT UP! WHAT?! NO!!!
STOP
OH SHITS, WE'RE IN STOP-PAGE TIME NOW!!

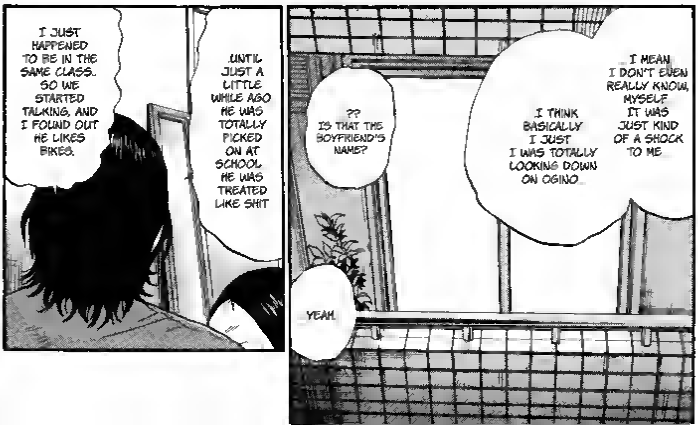

NOTHIN'
YOU'RE ACTIN' LIKE YOUR MIND AIN'T EVEN HERE IN THIS ROOM TODAY
...HMM? WHAT'S WRONG, KAZUKI?

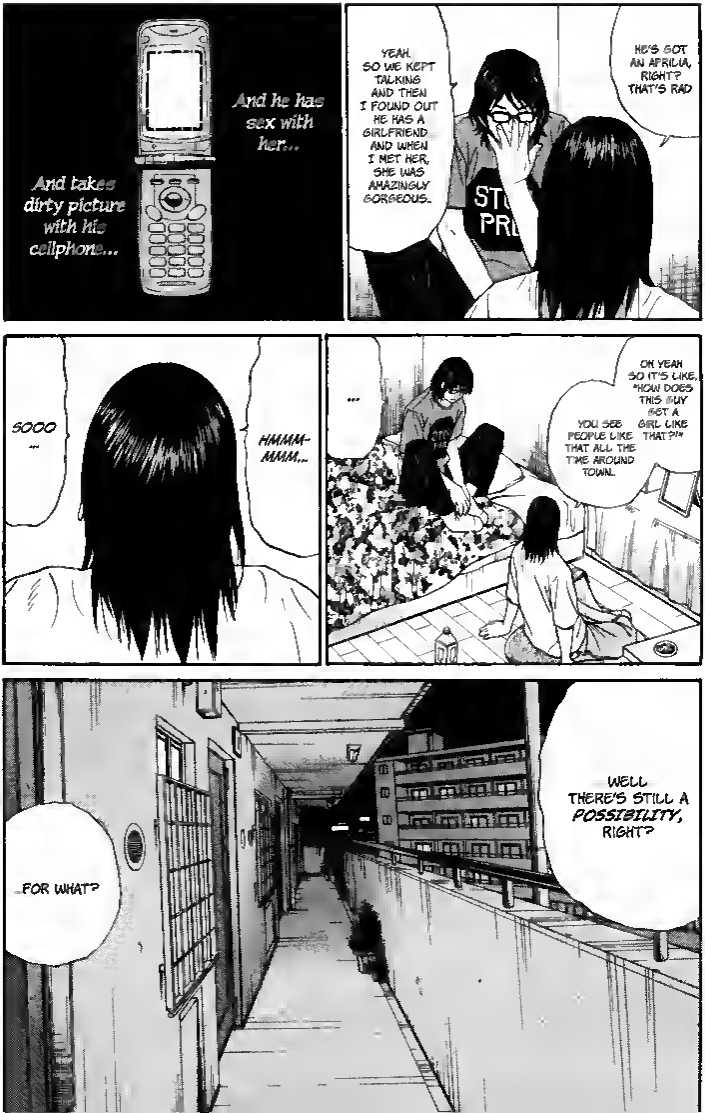
NAHHH, IT'S NOTHING...
STOP PRE
KAZUKI
...SOMETHIN' HAPPEN AT SCHOOL?

OSINO
WHAT, JUST LIKE THAT?!
YOU'VE KNOWN ME SINCE 1ST GRADE, DUDE! WHO'S MORE IMPORTANT TO YOU?!
YOU KNOW YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SUPER COLD TO ME, EVER SINCE YOU MADE THIS NEW MOTORCYCLE FRIEND AT SCHOOL?
AND NOW YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH HER?
WHAT THE HELL? IS SHE THAT HOT? YOU SEEN HER?
OVER A REASON LIKE THAT?!
HE'S GOT A HOT GIRLFRIEND
STOP PRE
NO, NO. THAT'S NOT IT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU TOTALLY DO! WHY ELSE WOULD YOU BE SO FREAKED OUT OVER THIS?
BUT... I DON'T EVEN REALLY KNOW. IF I LIKE HER OR NOT
I SAW HER SHE WAS TOTALLY HOT
STOP PRE

DON'T SAY THAT, YOU MORON! YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT
C'MONNNN KAZUKI! IF IT'S GETTING YOU SO DOWN JUST TAKE HER FROM HIM! PUT THE MOVES ON!

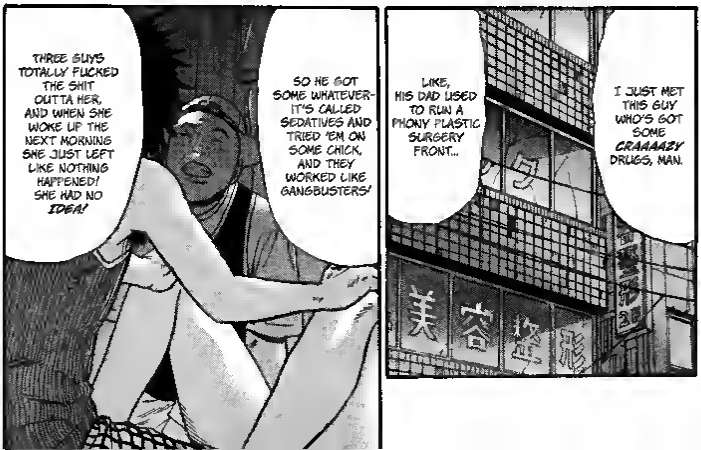

BESIDES, I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! I DON'T WANT TO JUST TAKE HER FROM HIM!
YOU'RE AN IDIOT! THEY'RE TOTALLY FALLING ALL OVER EACH OTHER! THERE'S NO CHANCE IN HELL IT'D WORK!
YOU REALLY SELL YOURSELF SHORT BRO. IT'S SAD TO WATCH. I WANNA SEE YOU JUST EXPLODE, RIGHT HERE AND NOW!"
YOU CAN'T HELP IT DUDE! IT JUST MEANS THE CHICK YOU LOVE IS YOUR FRIEND'S GIRL


I JUST HAPPENED TO BE IN THE SAME CLASS.. SO WE STARTED TALKING, AND I FOUND OUT HE LIKES BIKES.
UNTIL JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO HE WAS TOTALLY PICKED ON AT SCHOOL HE WAS TREATED LIKE SHIT
?? IS THAT THE BOYFRIEND'S NAME?
I THINK BASICALLY I JUST I WAS TOTALLY LOOKING DOWN ON OGINO...
...I MEAN I DON'T EVEN REALLY KNOW, MYSELF IT WAS JUST KIND OF A SHOCK TO ME...
...YEAH.

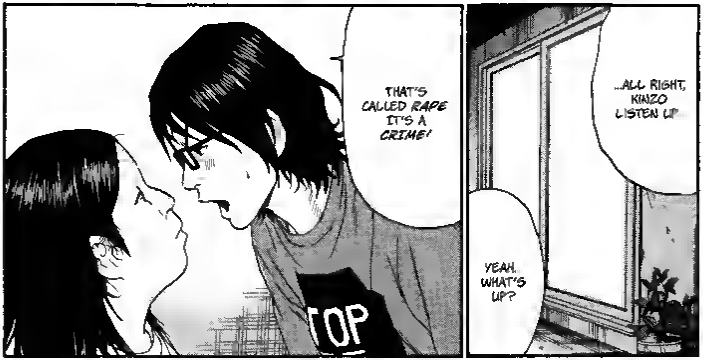

And takes dirty picture with his cellphone...
And he has sex with her...
YEAH. SO WE KEPT TALKING AND THEN I FOUND OUT HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND AND WHEN I MET HER, SHE WAS AMAZINGLY GORGEOUS.
HE'S GOT AN AFRILIA, RIGHT? THAT'S RAD
SOOO ...
HMMM-MMM...
...
OH YEAH SO IT'S LIKE, "HOW DOES THIS GUY GET A GIRL LIKE THAT?!"
YOU SEE PEOPLE LIKE THAT ALL THE TIME AROUND TOWN.
...FOR WHAT?
WELL THERE'S STILL A POSSIBILITY, RIGHT?

I MEAN, YOU KNOW HER NOW. DON'T YOU?
YOU WENT RIDING TOGETHER
YEAH. I BARELY TALKED TO HER AT ALL, THOUGH.
BUT DON'T YOU THINK THAT'S REALLY CRAZY?
I MEAN.. IF YOU MANAGED TO COME UP WITH THE RIGHT REASON..
YOU COULD EVEN BRING HER IN HERE, YOU KNOW?
'COURSE, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE WITH HER BOY-FRIEND
BUT THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM, IS IT?
DUDE WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
..IS THIS ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR STUPID PLANS?

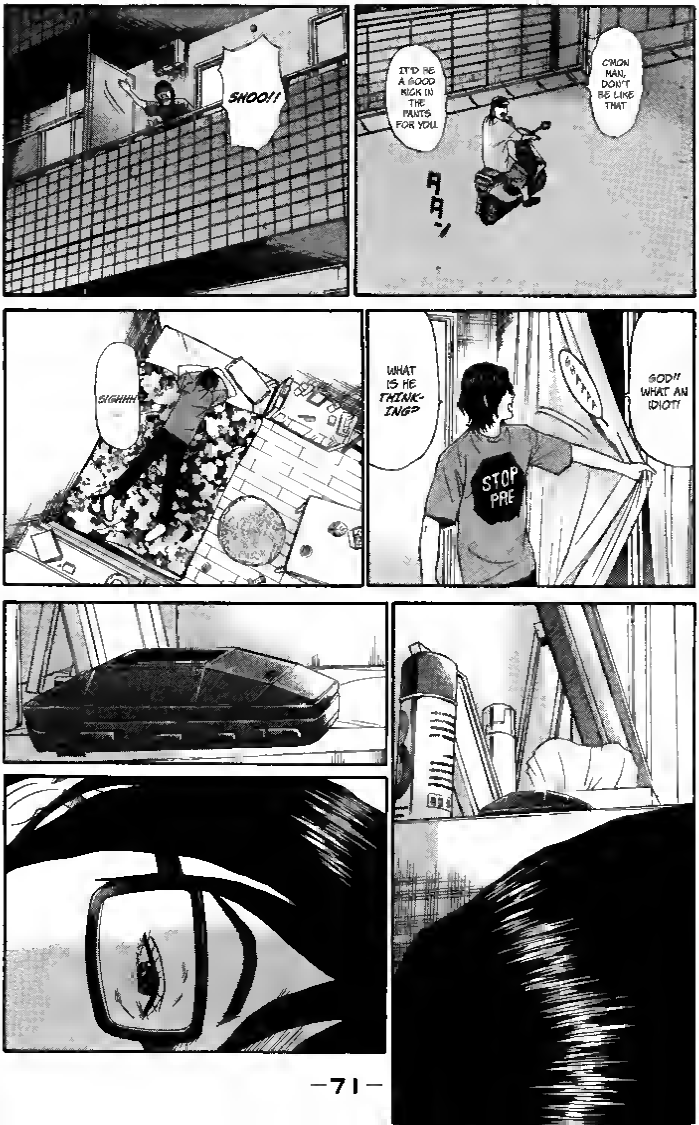
ALL'S I'M SAYING IS IF YOU JUST WANT TO BANG HER ONCE, THAT'S ALL, NOTHING MORE
THEN I THINK WE CAN MANAGE THAT.


I JUST MET THIS GUY WHO'S GOT SOME CRAAAAZY DRUGS, MAN.
LIKE, HIS DAD USED TO RUN A PHONY PLASTIC SURGERY FRONT...
SO HE GOT SOME WHATEVER- IT'S CALLED SEDATIVES AND TRIED 'EM ON SOME CHICK, AND THEY WORKED LIKE GANGBUSTERS!
THREE GUYS TOTALLY FUCKED THE SHIT OUTTA HER, AND WHEN SHE WOKE UP THE NEXT MORNING SHE JUST LEFT LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED! SHE HAD NO IDEA!

WE CAN GET THAT CHICK IN HERE AND STUFF HER UP GOOD!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KAZUKI? I COULD PROBABLY TRACK HIM DOWN AND GET SOME OF THIS STUFF FOR YOU

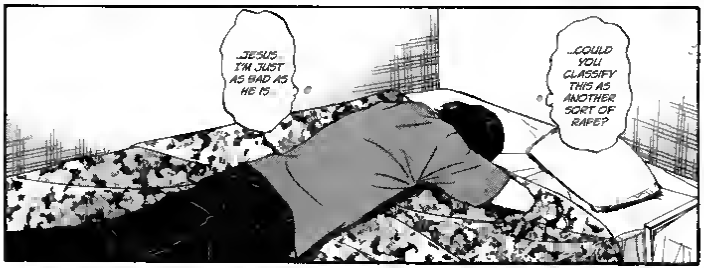

THAT'S CALLED *RAPE* IT'S A *CRIME!*
...ALL RIGHT, KIMIZO LISTEN UP
YEAH, WHAT'S UP?

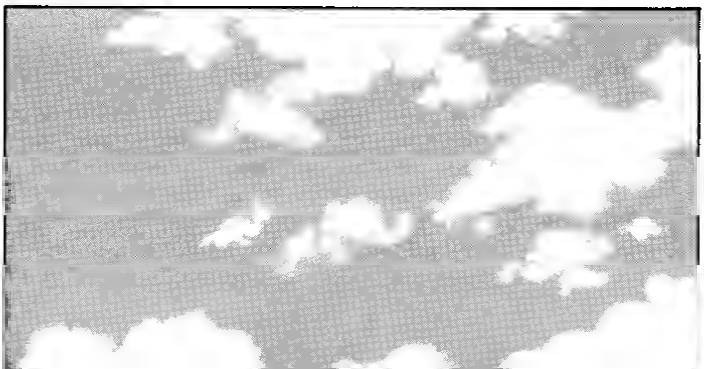
WHAT, ARE YOU SERIOUS? YOU'RE ACTUALLY KICKING ME OUT
LEAVE!
IT'S NOT RAPE IF SHE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT IT, BROHAN.
REMEMBER THAT AND GET OUTTA HERE!!
...NOT JUST A CRIME, IT'S A *FELONY...*
YES!! GET THE FUCK OUT!!


SHOO!!
IT'D BE A GOOD KICK IN THE PANTS FOR YOU.
C'MON MAN, DON'T BE LIKE THAT
ヴヴン
SIGHHH
WHAT IS HE THINK-ING?
GOD!! WHAT AN IDIOT!
STOP PRE

I stole Ogino's cellphone ...
I stole the picture of his girlfriend's twat on it...

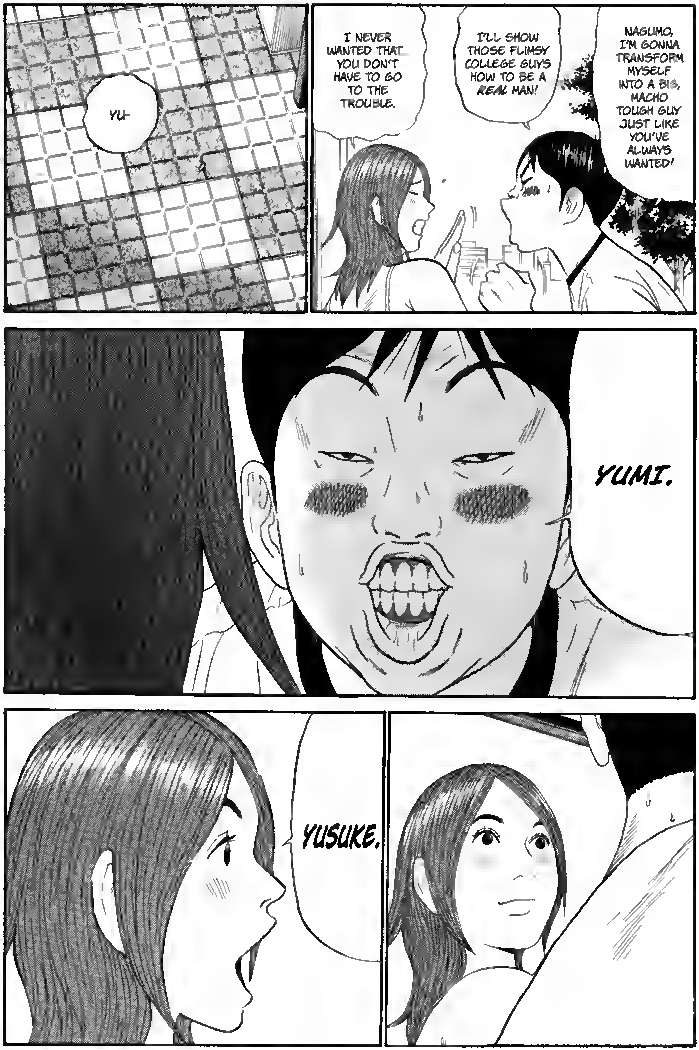
.....
And I look at it, and...


...JESUS... I'M JUST AS BAD AS HE IS.
...COULD YOU CLASSIFY THIS AS ANOTHER SORT OF RAPE?



HEY, DID YOU *REALLY* GIVE HIM TAJIMA'S CELL NUMBER?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE HOW OBNOXIOUS SHE'S BEING. "HE HASN'T CALLED HE HASN'T MESSAGED ME BLA BLA BLA"
DID YOU REALLY GIVE IT TO HIM?
NAGUMO?
I WUB YOO.

I WUB YOO SO MUCH.
YES, I DID
DID YOU REALLY?
HOW COME?! WHY CAN'T I AT LEAST BE A LIVING CREATURE?!
OH! I KNOW! I'LL BE A DUNG BEETLE! THEN I CAN ROLL YOU UP! WITH LOVE!!
NO WAY! I'M NOT GONNA BE A HORSE TURD!!
I'D SMACK YOU RIGHT ON THE LIPS! OR THE NEAREST FACSIMILE THEREOF!
YOU KNOW WHAT, NASUMO?! MY LOVE IS SO UNDYING THAT IT WOULD NEVER CHANGE, EVEN AFTER YOU GET REINCARNATED AS A HORSE TURD IN THE NEXT LIFE!
NO.
LEMME SEE YER BEWBS
YEAH, IT'S PRETTY GOOD I GUESS.
SO, HOW GOES IT? IS IT FUN AT COLLEGE?


YU-
I NEVER WANTED THAT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO THE TROUBLE.
I'LL SHOW THOSE FLIMSY COLLEGE GUYS HOW TO BE A REAL MAN!
NAGUMO, I'M GONNA TRANSFORM MYSELF INTO A BIG, MACHO TOUGH GUY JUST LIKE YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED!
YUMI.
YUSUKE.

?
YUSUKE YUSUKE
YUSUKE YUSUKE
YUMI YUMI
YUMI YUMI
YUMI YUMI
YUSUKE
YUSUKE
YUMI
YUMI
WELL, LET'S GO, YUMI. THE SUN IS SETTING.
HANG ON, YUSUKE
WHAT?
NABUMO
ARE YOU HAPPY WITH LIFE?
YEAH, PRETTY MUCH.

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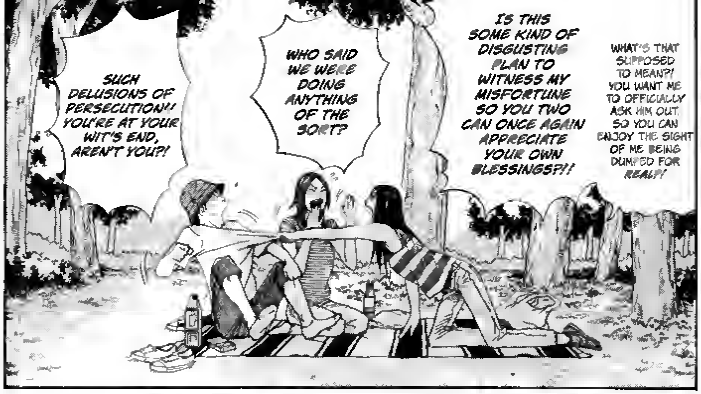
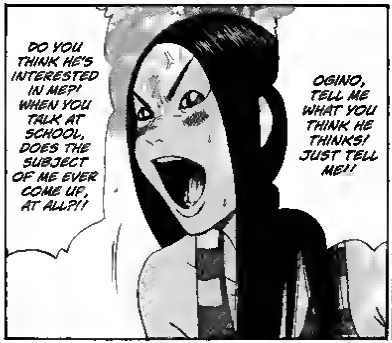
Chapter 39: Moving

HE KNOWS MY NUMBERRRR, AND HE WON'T CALLLL ME.
SO HE BASICALLY JUST ISN'T INTERESTED IN THE GOODS?

...
WELL I GUESS THAT MEANS I JUST GOT TURNED DOWN, DOESN'T IT?
MUNCH MUNCH

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'VE ASKED HIM OUT OR ANYTHING. I DON'T SUPPOSE WE CAN SAY FOR SURE THAT HE'S TURNED YOU DOWN, CAN WE?
HMMMMMM... WELL...
B. BAD HAT?
AS HIS FRIEND AND ADVISOR, YOU'D KNOW HIM BETTER THAN ANYONE. WHAT'S THE DEAL?!
YOU THERE! WITH THE BAD HAT! WHAT DO YOU THINK?


SUCH DELUSIONS OF PERSECUTION!! YOU'RE AT YOUR WIT'S END, AREN'T YOU!?
WHO SAID WE WERE DOING ANYTHING OF THE SORT?
IS THIS SOME KIND OF DISGUSTING PLAN TO WITNESS MY MISFORTUNE SO YOU TWO CAN ONCE AGAIN APPRECIATE YOUR OWN BLESSINGS?!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?! YOU WANT ME TO OFFICIALLY ASK HIM OUT SO YOU CAN ENJOY THE SIGHT OF ME BEING DUMPED FOR REAL?!


DO YOU THINK HE'S INTERESTED IN ME?! WHEN YOU TALK AT SCHOOL, DOES THE SUBJECT OF ME EVER COME UP, AT ALL?!
OGINO, TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK HE THINKS! JUST TELL ME!!

OH, SCREW IT! I DON'T CARE!! JUST TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON!!
Y-YOU REMEMBER HOW SHY SAITO WAS! I BET... I BET HE JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO COME FORWARD

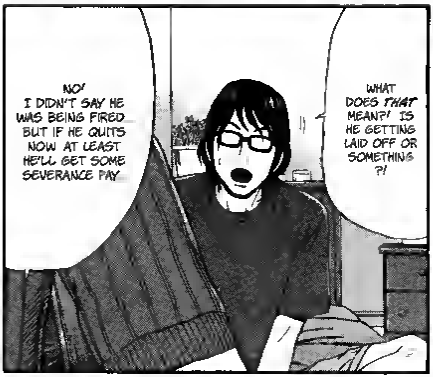
FORGET IT?! I'M GIVING YOU A QUOTA! NOW WORK!! BRING ROMANCE INTO MY FAVOR!!
SMACK
O-OW! WHAT WAS THAT FOR?!
H-HEY! IT'S NOT MY FAULT! DO YOUR OWN DIRTY WORK!
SHUT UP! WHO WAS IT WHO HELPED YOU BECOME AS HAPPY AS YOU ARE NOW?!
Good luck, Ogino...

N...
NEVER

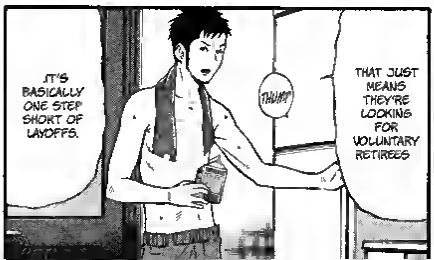
HUH?

WAIT.
WHAT DO YOU
MEAN?

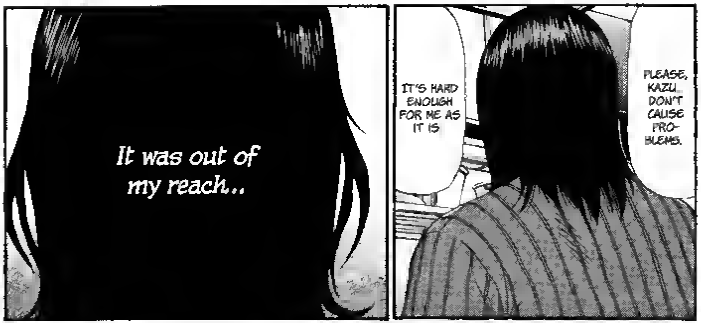
DAD'S QUITTING HIS JOB?!
I TOLD YOU.. IT'S NOT A SURE THING, YET..


WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?! IS HE GETTING LAID OFF OR SOMETHING ?!
NO! I DIDN'T SAY HE WAS BEING FIRED... BUT IF HE QUITS NOW AT LEAST HE'LL GET SOME SEVERANCE PAY.

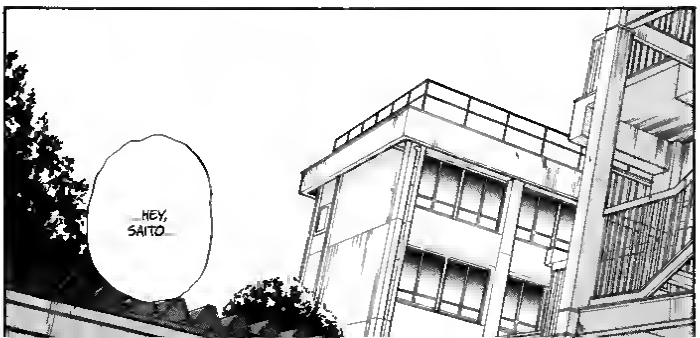
HE JUST SAID THAT.. MAYBE..
..HE WOULD QUIT..

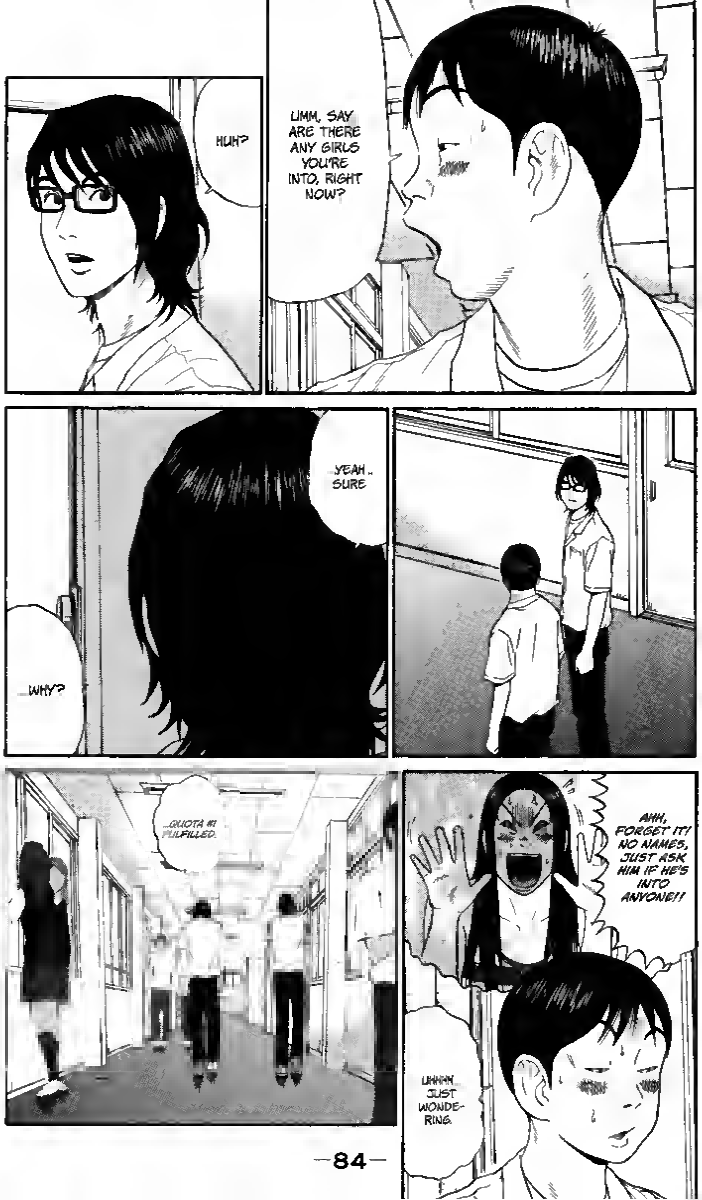

THAT JUST MEANS THEY'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTARY RETIREES
THUMP
..IT'S BASICALLY ONE STEP SHORT OF LAYOFFS.

WHAT'S HE GONNA DO AFTER THAT? WHAT ABOUT US?!
WE STILL HAVE PLENTY OF THE MORTGAGE TO PAY OFF DON'T WE?!
..I REALLY DO WONDER...
カ" カ"
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT HE'S THINKING, EITHER.
...HE SAID... WELL, HE SAID HE MIGHT HELP OUT WITH YOUR UNCLE'S WORK, IN NAGOYA...
OH GOD, NOT THAT OLD GAS-BAG! WHAT DO YOU THINK, KAZUKI?
HELL NO I'M NOT LEAVING!!
C'MON, MAN, LET'S GET AN APARTMENT AND STAY HERE!!
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO NAGOYA! OUT OF THE QUESTION!!
WELL, WHY CAN'T WE WAIT UNTIL KAZU GRADUATES, AT LEAST?
I DON'T THINK WE HAVE THE TIME THIS MORNING, HE SAID HE MIGHT QUIT THIS WEEK AT THE EARLIEST


It was out of my reach...
IT'S HARD ENOUGH FOR ME AS IT IS
PLEASE, KAZU. DON'T CAUSE PRO-BLEMS.

Of anything I could influence...
An enormous flow of events...
Far out of the range...

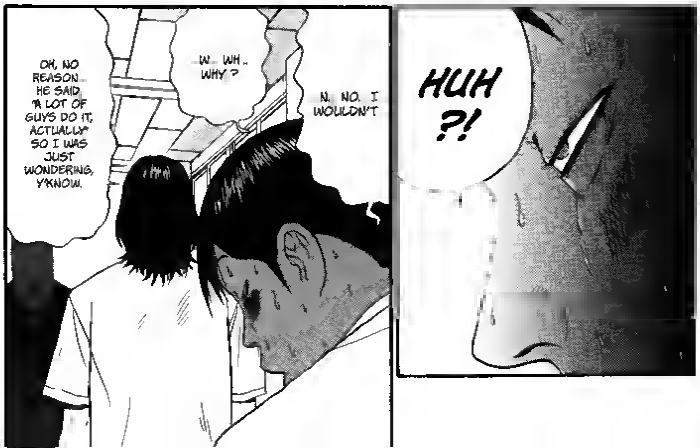

...HEY, SAITO...

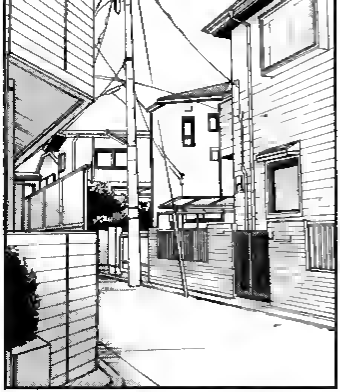

HUH?
UMM, SAY ARE THERE ANY GIRLS YOU'RE INTO, RIGHT NOW?
YEAH.. SURE
...WHY?
...QUOTA #1 FULFILLED.
AHH, FORGET IT! NO NAMES, JUST ASK HIM IF HE'S INTO ANYONE!!
UHHHH JUST WONDERING.

UMM. OH YEAH. HEY SAITO...
TAJIMA AND NAGUMO SAID THEY WANT TO HANG OUT WITH YOU NEXT SUNDAY... WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HUH? WHAT ABOUT YOU?
APPARENTLY MY PRESENCE IS UNNEEDED THEY TOLD ME NOT TO COME, ACTUALLY.
I HAVE WORK, ANYWAY.
YEAH SURE I'LL CALL UP TAJIMA..
WOULD YOU? GREAT...
PHEWWW! THE TAJIMA MISSIONS ARE COMPLETE!!
HEY, GUESS WHAT, SAITO?!
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'M LOVIN' LIFE RIGHT NOW!
I JUST THINK ABOUT IT REAL OFTEN THESE DAYS JUST HOW FULFILLING EVERYTHING IS FOR ME.
I'VE EVEN GOT A MOTORCYCLE FRIEND TO GO OUT RIDING WITH, AND STUFF!

BACK IN THE TANIWAKI DAYS, ALL I THOUGHT ABOUT WAS SURVIVING UNTIL GRADUATION. I COULD HAVE NEVER IMAGINED ANY OF THIS..
IF SOME GUY FROM THE FUTURE HAD COME AND TOLD ME, "YOU WILL GO ON TO DO THIS, THIS AND THIS!" BACK THEN I DON'T THINK I WOULD HAVE BELIEVED A WORD HE SAID
OGINO..
YEAH?

I HAVE A FRIEND... HE LIKES TO TAKE PICTURES OF HIS GIRLFRIEND'S YOU-KNOW-WHAT WITH HIS CELLPHONE...
DO YOU DO THAT KIND OF STUFF, TOO?


HUH ?!
N- NO. I WOULDN'T
W- WH- WHY?
OH, NO REASON... HE SAID "A LOT OF GUYS DO IT, ACTUALLY" SO I WAS JUST WONDERING, Y'KNOW.



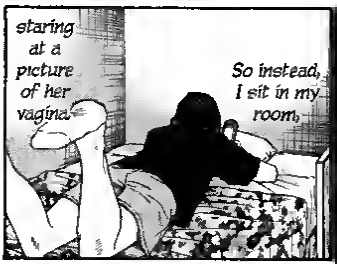
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR. I DON'T THINK YOU'D DO ANYTHING SO SHAMELESS.
GOOD HEAVENS, NO. IT'S, WHY IT'S SCANDALOUS...

...I'm sorry, Ogino... If anyone is being shameless here, it's me...

I can admit it now...
Kinzo... I think you were right...

in love with her...
I am totally...

To a dangerous extent...
This feeling has done nothing but grow, day by day...
From the moment I met her...

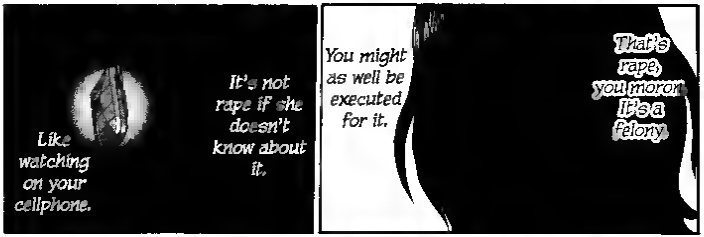

staring at a picture of her vagina.
So instead, I sit in my room,

She is completely, utterly out of my reach...
There's no room for me between them...
Nagumo is Ogino's girlfriend...
YEAH, SURE.
WANT A DRINK?

I just stare at it, as if it were a clock...
It's the furthest possible thing from my reach...

...if we move... I might never see them again.
I'm not myself right now... I'm just floating along...
And doing this constantly has driven me crazy...
If we move...
I might never...
see her again.

THREE GUYS TOTALLY FUCKED THE SHIT OUTTA HER, AND WHEN SHE WOKE UP THE NEXT MORNING SHE JUST LEFT LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED!
THIS GUY I KNOW GOT SOME WHATEVER-IT'S-CALLED SEDATIVES AND TRIED 'EM ON SOME CHICK, AND THEY WORKED LIKE GANGBUSTERS...


Like watching on your cellphone.
It's not rape if she doesn't know about it.
You might as well be executed for it.
That's rape, you moron! It's a felony.

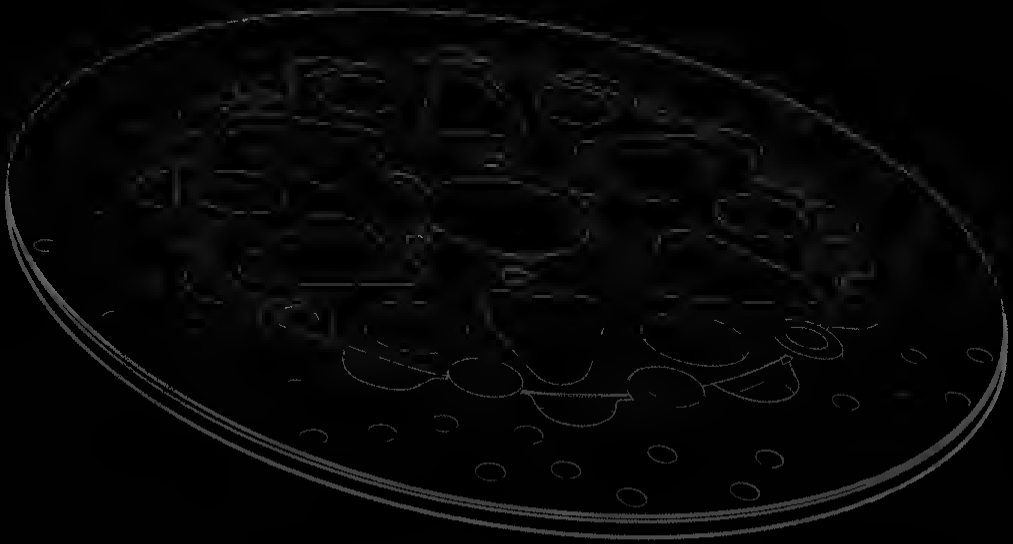
You could even bring her in here, you know?
Tajima and Nagumo said they want to hang out with you next Sunday...
Don't YOU have a girl-friend?

I could meet with her...
I bet...
If I make a phone call...
This Sunday,
And what if I knew "today's the last time I'll ever see her"?
And then...
What if I had Kinzo's pills on hand?
She'd probably even come to my house...

7:56 P.M.

Two days later

Our moving-out was made official...
For a week from Thursday.
Cigusatcra Chapter 39 - END



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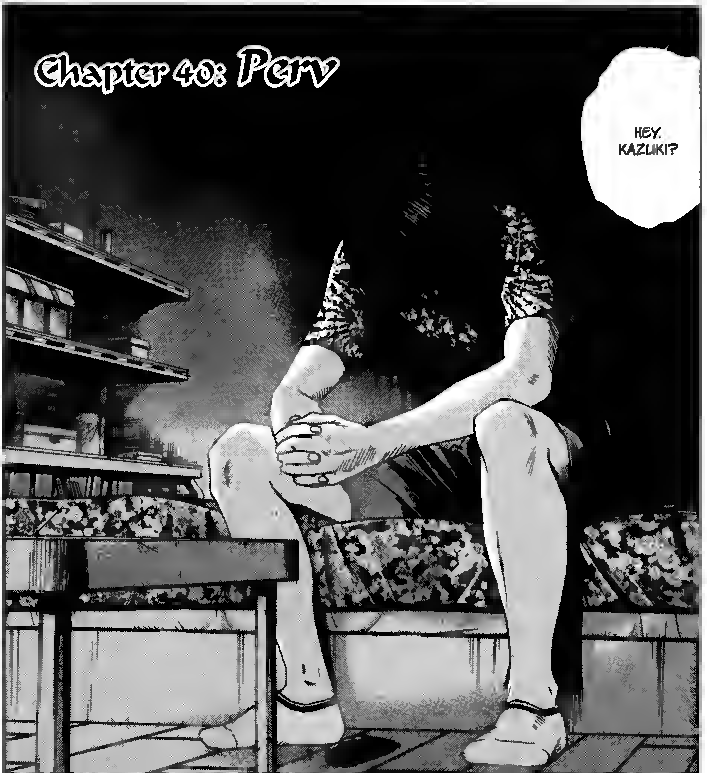
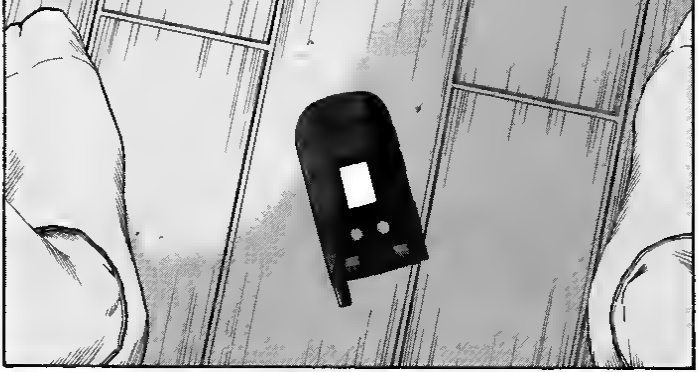
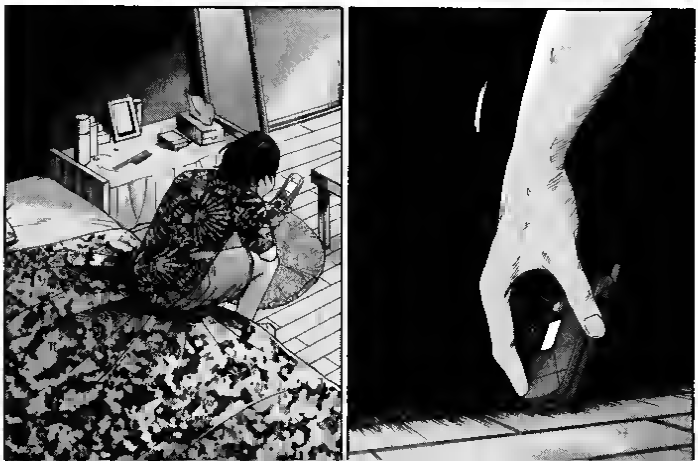
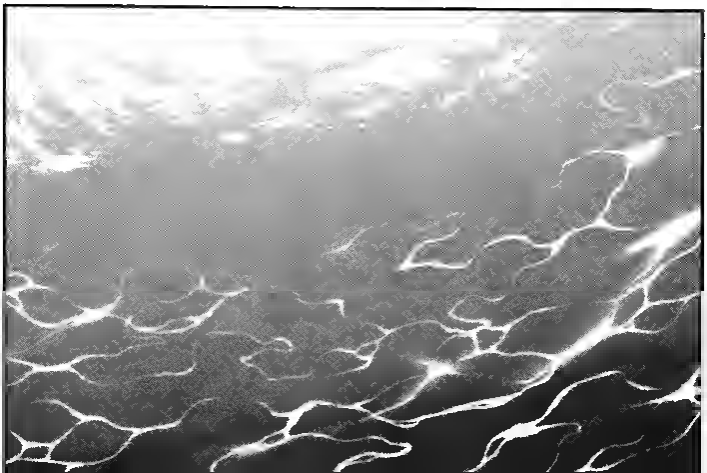
..KAZUKI.

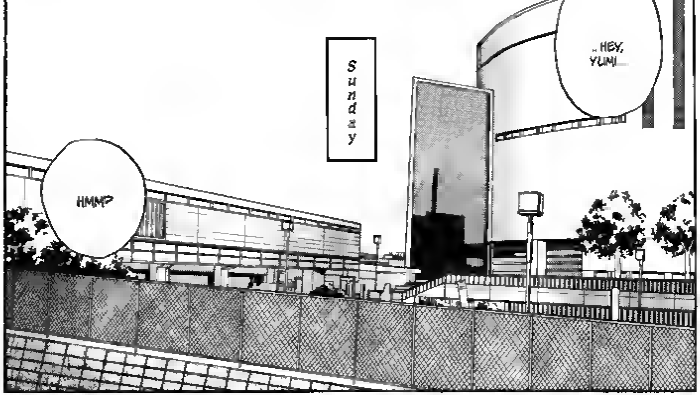

Chapter 40: Perv
HEY, KAZUKI?



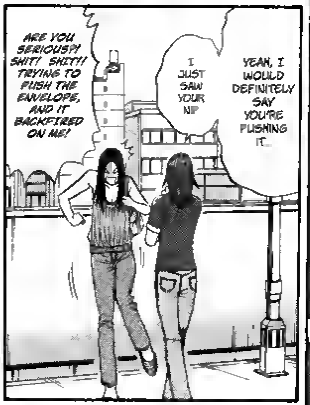


...IT'S ME, KAZUKI.
...UH... HEY... KINZO?
...CAN I ASK YOU SOMETHING?




Sunday
..HEY, YUMI...
HMMP

GOOD MORRR-NING.
LEAN OVER A BIT

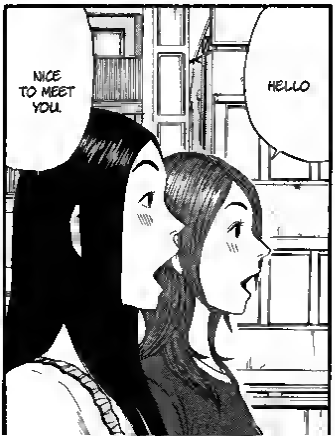

ARE YOU SERIOUS?! SHIT! SHIT!! TRYING TO FLUSH THE EAVELOPE, AND IT BACKFIRED ON ME!
I JUST SAW YOUR NIP
YEAH, I WOULD DEFINITELY SAY YOU'RE FLUSHING IT...

...IS THIS APPROACHING EXHIBITIONIST LEVELS?
AM I SHOWING OFF A BIT TOO MUCH SKIN TODAY?

W-WHAT SHOULD I DO?! SHOULD I JUST LIKE, GO RUN AND BUY SOME NEW CLOTHES?!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? SAITO'S GOING TO BE HERE ANY MOMENT NOW
C'MON, YUMI, HELP ME! YOU GOTTA TAKE ONE FOR THE TEAM! SWITCH CLOTHES WITH ME!
YOU'RE FINE, HONESTLY! IT'S BARELY NOTICEABLE!
AND BESIDES, LOOK! HERE COMES SAITO!
HUH? WHERE? WHERE, WHERE??
OH GOD, RIGHT THERE... FUCK! I'M SWEATING SWEATING BUCKETS! DO I SMELL?
AM I A SMELLY FLASHER?
YOU'RE FINE! STOP WORRYING NOW THEN AND PRESENT YOURSELF!
HELLO AGAIN. SORRY, WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
NO? NO! NOT AT ALL! WE JUST GOT HERE OURSELVES!!

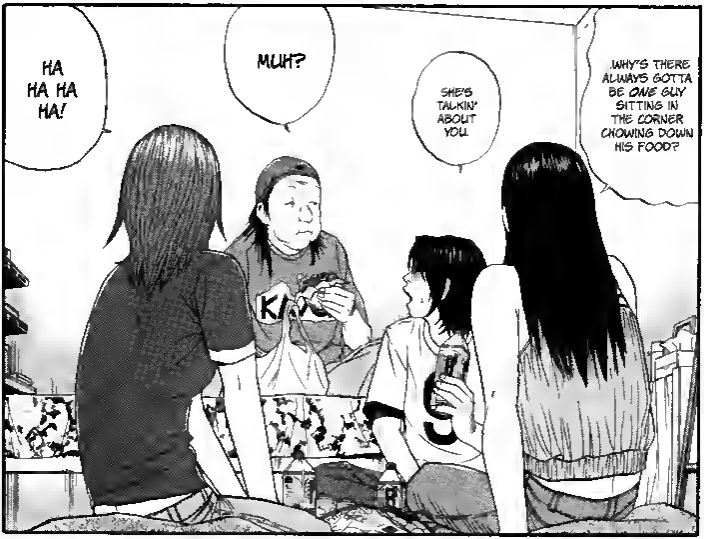
HELLO LADIES!
I'M KINZO, AN OLD BUDDY OF SAITO'S!

AWW MAN I'M FEELING SO MOVED RIGHT NOW. THIS IS AWESOME!
WOW, HE WAS RIGHT! YOU TWO ARE TOTALLY LOOKERS!


HELLO
NICE TO MEET YOU.

SORRY. HE ENDED UP TAGGING ALONG. YOU TWO DON'T MIND, DO YOU?
NO, I DON'T YUMI?
NOPE.
SOR-RYYYYY
CAN I JOIN THE FUUUUN?
WELL THEN...
LET'S GO
IS IT A LONG WAY TO YOUR HOUSE, SAITO?
NO, IT'S JUST OVER THERE..
WOW YOU LIVE SO CLOSE TO THE STATION.
HEY, YOU GIRLS YOU DRINK?
HUH?
YEAH, I CAN HOLD A BIT

I'D LIKE TEA, RATHER THAN BEER, IF THAT'S OKAY
I CAN SPRING FOR IT I WON 70 000 YEN AT PACHINKO LAST NIGHT
SCRATCH
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KAZUKI? SHOULD I GO AND GRAB US SOME DRINKS AND STUFF?
SURE. THANKS, MAN
WELL ANYWAYS, I'LL JUST GO SCOUT AROUND, GET SOMETHIN' GO TAKE THEM BACK TO YOUR PLACE, KAZU.
WORD!
YOUUUUU GOT IT..
WHAAAAAT? I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN MANAGE THAT !
I DON'T WANT HIS FREAKY ASS TRYING TO PICK ME UP
KEEP MR. BUDDY THERE COMPANY! I WANT TO SPEND ALL MY ATTENTION ON SAITO!
HUH? WHAT?
..YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO, YUMI...

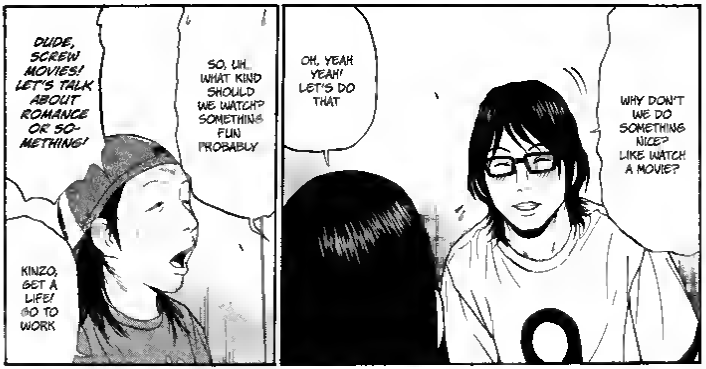

HA HA HA HA!
MUH?
SHE'S TALKIN' ABOUT YOU.
WHY'S THERE ALWAYS GOTTA BE ONE GUY SITTING IN THE CORNER CHOWING DOWN HIS FOOD?

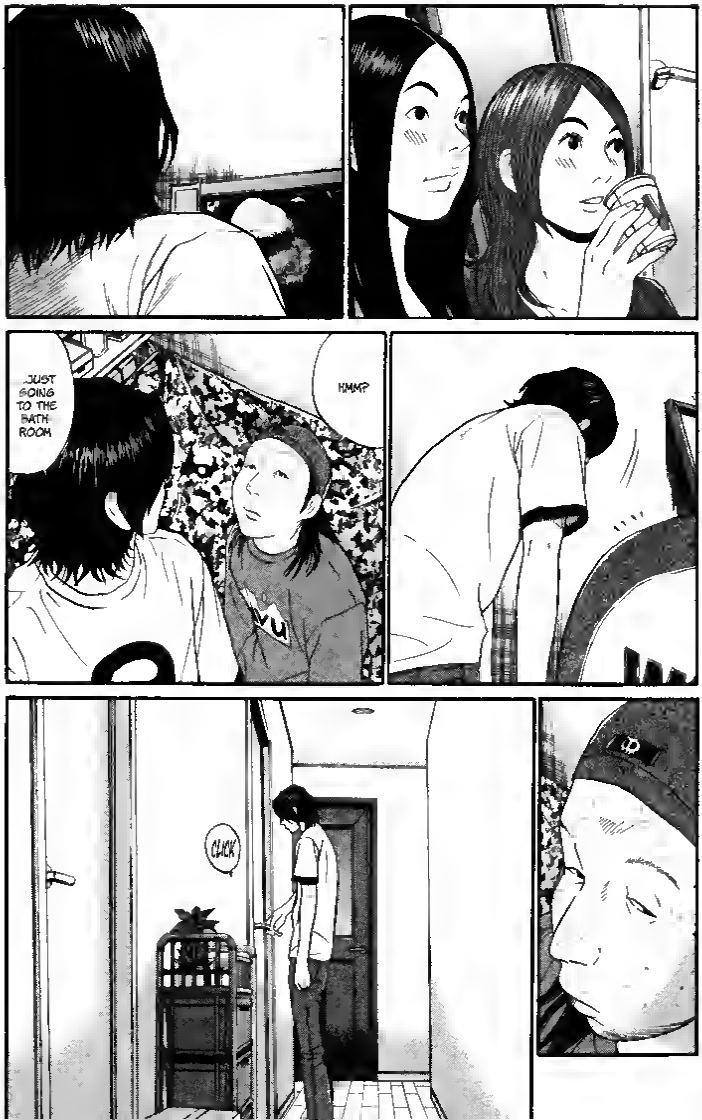
OH NO.. I INSIST, CONTINUE YOUR FEAST...
SUP BABY YOU WANT HALF?
DUDE I HAVEN'T HAD A BITE TO EAT TODAY

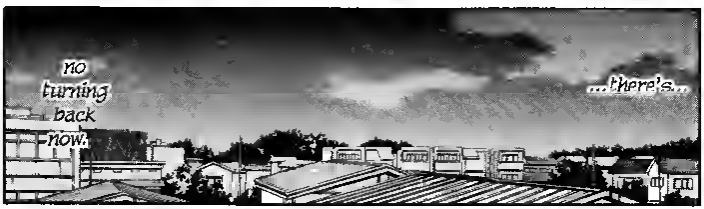
I ALSO BOUGHT COFFEE FOR EVERYONE, IF YOU'RE INTERESTED
MIGHT WANT TO DRINK UP, WHILE IT'S WARM.
OH YEAH, I FORGOT TO MEN TION
HERE, GOT SOME FOR YOU TOO, KAZU.
OH. THANKS
THAT'S VERY THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, KINZO.
THANKS.

I DON'T!
I DO.
YOU GOT BOY-FRIENDS?
URD!
OH HEY, SO WHAT'S UP WITH YOU GIRLS?
HOW LONG HAVE YOU TWO KNOWN EACH OTHER?
NOPE! IT'S PRETTY SAD I GET NO LOVE FROM THE LADIES.
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KINZO? DO YOU HAVE A GIRLFRIEND?
THIS GUY GETS DOUBLE DIGIT CHOCOLATES, INCLUDING FROM WHATEVER GIRL I LIKE AT THE TIME.. FEBRUARY IS A HARD MONTH ON OUR FRIENDSHIP I TELL YA..
KAVU
YOU KNOW WHAT? I'VE NEVER GOTTEN VALENTINE'S DAY CHOCOLATES FROM A GIRL BEFORE.. BUT EVERY YEAR, WITHOUT FAIL..
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS IN 1ST GRADE..
UH. 1ST GRADE, I THINK?

NOOOO
NO NO!
NO OPENING
RACKS,
PLEASE.
WHICH ONE
THIS ONE?
AND YOU KNOW WHAT?
THIS GUY'S A CRAZY
PERV
THE GIRLS
NEVER FIGURE IT OUT?
OPEN UP THAT RACK
BEHIND YOU AND
CHECK OUT THE DVDS
HE'S GOT!


DUDE,
SCREW
MOVIES!
LET'S TALK
ABOUT
ROMANCE
OR SO-
METHING!
SO, UH,
WHAT KIND
SHOULD
WE WATCH?
SOMETHING
FUN
PROBABLY
KINZO,
GET A
LIFE!
GO TO
WORK
OH, YEAH
YEAH!
LET'S DO
THAT
WHY DON'T
WE DO
SOMETHING
NICE?
LIKE WATCH
A MOVIE?


JUST GOING TO THE BATHROOM
HMM?
CLICK


no turning back now.
...there's...

WHY WON'T SHE ANSWER? PICK UP!!
DAMMIT, NAGUMO!
SHIT! I BET THEY'RE HAVING THE TIME OF THEIR LIVES BY NOW!
THEY'RE HAVING SO MUCH FUN THEY CAN'T EVEN ANSWER MY CALL!!
GRRRRR, THEY'RE SO LUCKYYY!
URRRGH, I WISH I COULD GO TO SAITO'S HOUSE!

WHO THE HELL KEEPS CALLING HER? HER BOY-FRIEND?
PROBABLY.
I BET HE'S CALLING ME, TOO.
WOW, KAZUKI... IT TOOK SOME TIME...
BUT IT ACTUALLY WORKED!
I WAS WONDERING WHAT WAS GOING ON! I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY "FORGET IT."
AND THEN THEY KICKED IN. YOU SAW THEM BACK-TO-BACK YAWNING, TRYING TO FIGHT IT OFF?
THEN THEY WERE ALL, "LET ME TAKE A NAAAP" AND "HUHHHN?" AND CONKED OUT...
IT WAS LIKE WATCHING SOME DOPEY-ASS PORNO...

NOW THEN... HOWWWW SHALL WE DO THIS?

..ARE THEY..
..REALLY SLEEPING..?
HUH? WELL, YEAH, THEY ARE.
..AREN'T THEY?

Ciguatera Chapter 40 - END

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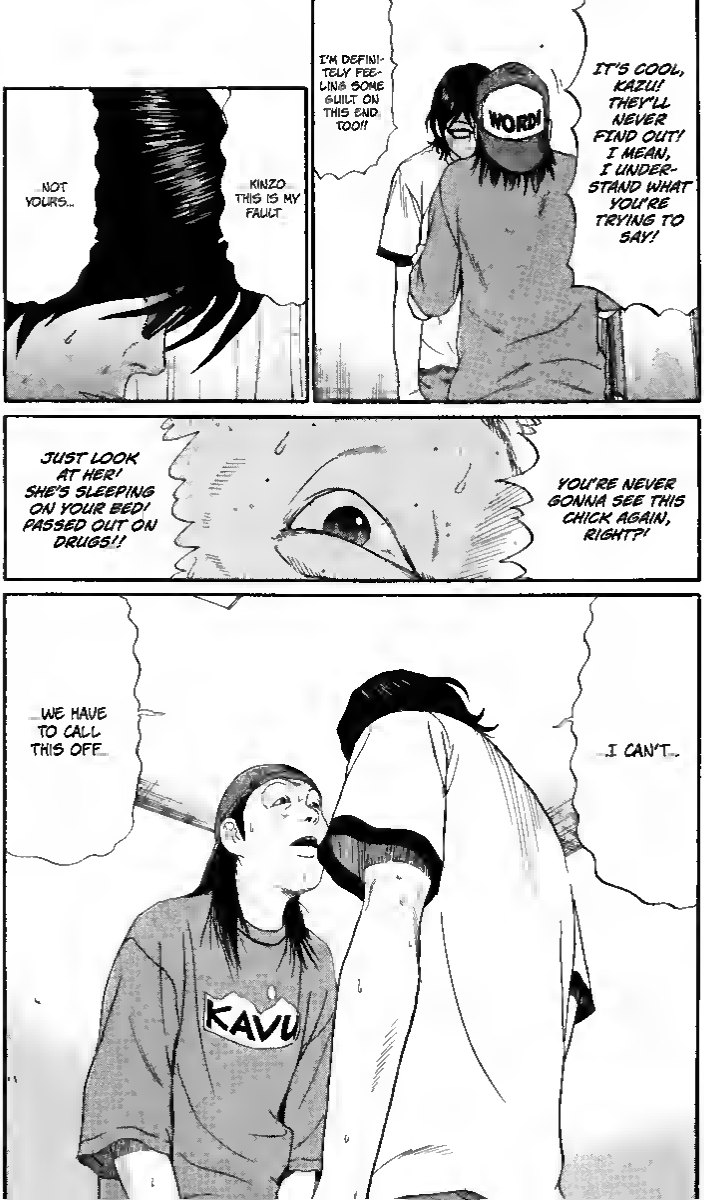
Chapter 41: 2 Cm
WHAT'S THE PLAN THEN, KAZUKI? CAN YOU BELIEVE WE'RE BOTH GONNA LOSE OUR VIRGINITY THIS WAY?
RVF
HONDA

"YEAH, WHEN I WAS A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL, MY FRIEND AND I SLIPPED THESE CHICKS SOME SLEEPING PILLS."
WHAT ARE YOU GONNA SAY WHEN SOMEONE ASKS YOU THIS IN THE FUTURE?

I CAN'T PERFORM IF I'M FREAKIN' OUT SO WHAT TIME?
SO ANYWAYS, WHAT TIME DID YOU SAY YOUR MOM WAS GETTING HOME TONIGHT?
NO FUCKIN WAY RIGHT? WE GOTTA MAKE UP SOME CONVINCING STORIES.
YO KAZU... WHAT TIME IS YOUR MOM GETTIN' HOME?
!

KINZO..
WHAT?!!
HUH?! WHAT'S GOING ON?! YOU'RE CRYING OUT OF HAPPI-NESS, RIGHT?!
H... HEY! WHOA, DUDE, WHOA! WHY THE FUCK ARE THERE TEARS IN YOUR EYES?!
HOW COME YOU'RE JUST REALI-ZING THIS NOW?!
FUCK YEAH, IT IS! YOU AND ME BOTH, DUDE! BUT WE KNEW THAT GOING IN, RIGHT?!
...IT'S SO LOW... IT'S SO TERRIBLE... I JUST CAN'T...
...I CAN'T.. DO THIS...
LET'S JUST DO WHAT WE SET OUT TO DO, THEN FALL INTO DEEP SELF-LOATHING AND ALL! RIGHT?! I'M WITH YOU ON THAT BOAT!
LOOK KAZU, THIS ISN'T THE TIME OR PLACE TO BE REAFFIR-MING YOUR CONSCIENCE AND SHIT! WE JUST DON'T HAVE TIME HERE!!
C'MON !!


IT'S COOL, KAZU! THEY'LL NEVER FIND OUT! I MEAN, I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO SAY!
WORD!
I'M DEFINITELY FEELING SOME GUILT ON THIS END TOO!!
KINZO THIS IS MY FAULT
...NOT YOURS...
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA SEE THIS CHICK AGAIN, RIGHT?!
JUST LOOK AT HER! SHE'S SLEEPING ON YOUR BED! PASSED OUT ON DRUGS!!
...I CAN'T...
...WE HAVE TO CALL THIS OFF...
KAVU

...I'M SORRY, KINZO. WE HAVE TO STOP
...JUST NOW I FINALLY REALIZED WHAT I WAS DOING...
...YOU...
MAYBE YOU'VE WOKEN UP, BUT I'M STILL DREAMING THE BEST GODDAMN DREAM OF MY LIFE!!
YOU'RE FUCKING KIDDING ME!! WHAT THE FUCK?!!

N-NO, STOP IT, MAN!
FINE THEN! IF YOU'RE OUT, I'M JUST GONNA TAKE THIS BROWN-HAIRED ONE, THEN! YOU WANT THAT?!
MOVE IT! IT'S NOT LIKE SHE'S YOUR GIRL-FRIEND OR ANYTH-ING!!
TAKE IT EASY, KINZO!
RRRR RRRRR RRRR RRR
?!?!
...GET THE PHONE! IT'S YOUR MOM, RIGHT?
ASK HER WHAT TIME SHE'S GETTING HOME!
RRRR RRRR
D!

NORDI
9
H..
HELLO?
OGINO?
AH..
WHAT?!
YOU'RE AT THE
STATION?!
HUH?
WHERE
ARE YOU
NOW?
OF
COURSE
THEY'RE
STILL
HERE
HUH?
YEAH

OH WELL THEY'RE BOTH ACTUALLY LYING DOWN RIGHT NOW THEY'RE NOT FEELING SO HOT
YEAH, DON'T WORRY THEY'RE JUST RESTING.
BUT I THINK NAGUMO'S PHONE IS TURNED OFF OR SOMETHING...
YEAH, MY SHIFT IS OVER.. I WAS GOING TO COME OVER AT 8 O'CLOCK..
RIGHT SEE YOU IN A MINUTE..
WORD!
YEAH, YEAH, JUST STAY THERE..
..ALL RIGHT.. YEAH, I'LL COME AND MEET YOU.
YEAH. HE'S ALREADY AT THE STATION
HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON ? IS HER BOYFRIEND HERE?

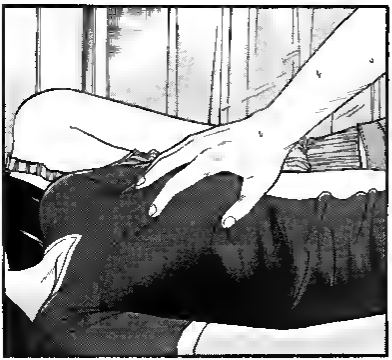
WHAT THE FUCK IS GOING ON?! WHY DIDN'T I HEAR ABOUT THIS?! WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?!
I HAD NO IDEA HIM COMING OVER WAS PART OF THE DEAL, EITHER!
YOU SEE, NOW? THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK OUT.
HER BOYFRIEND'S GOING TO BE HERE IN MOMENTS.
THE FUCK, MAN.
THIS IS LAME. MEGA-LAME, BRO.
SHIT, DUDE.
SUCKS. SUCKS SO HARD.

WELL, I'M GOING TO GO AND BRING HIM BACK...
SEE IF YOU CAN WAKE THEM UP AT ALL.. I MEAN YOU UNDERSTAND RIGHT?
SIGHHHHH...
I'M JUST GONNA LEAVE KAZU...
CLICK
WHEWWW

CHK
CHK
SHEEEEIT
MMMMM
KAVI
...MAN. WHAT A WASTE.
THE FUCK'S HE TALKIN' ABOUT? THEY'RE NOT GONNA WAKE UP.

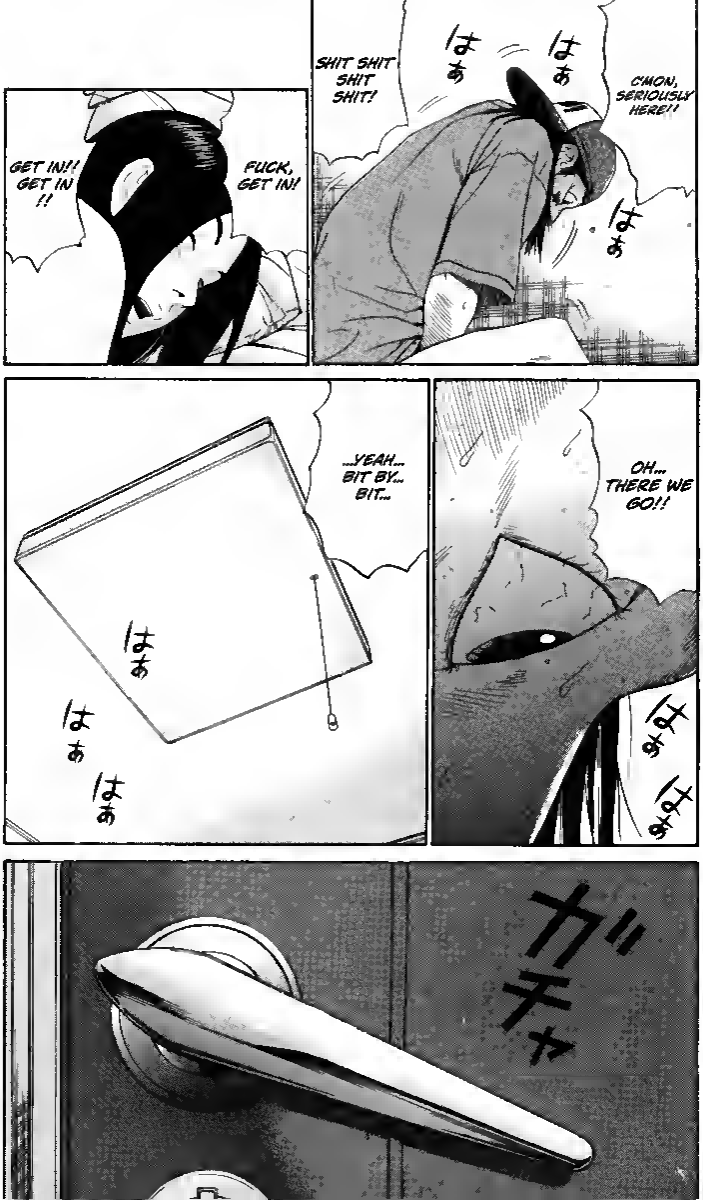
GRKK

...HEY...
WAKE UP...

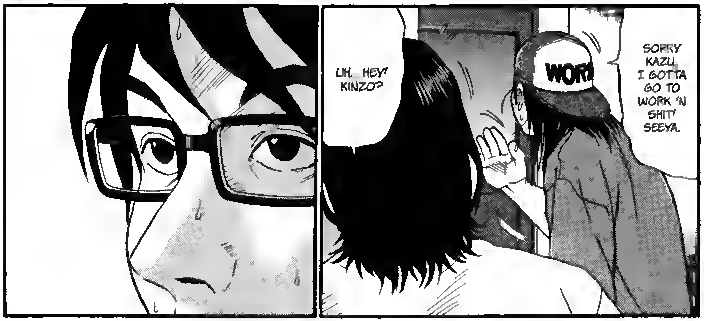


..TO THE STATION.. AND BACK..
..TAKES ABOUT 10 MINUTES..
..I'VE GOT 10, NO, MORE LIKE 7 MINUTES.
I'LL JUST PUT IT IN. FOR A SECOND..
..THEN LEAVE..
FUCK THIS! HOW MUCH DOES HE THINK THAT SHIT COST ME?!
GODDAMN. I GOT NO TIME FOR THIS!

...C'M-
HUFF, HUFF, HUFF, HUFF, HUFF.
THE POLICE ARE GONNA LOCK ME IN THE CLINK!!
YOUR BOYFRIEND'S GONNA BE HERE ANY MINUTE!
C'MON.. FUCK!!
THE HELL IS GOING ON?!
ARE YOU LOCKIN' THE DOOR ON ME, BITCH?!!
はあ はあ
IN!!
IT'S NOT GOING.


はぁ
はぁ
SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT!
C'MON, SERIOUSLY HERE!!
はぁ
GET IN!! GET IN !!
FUCK, GET IN!
...YEAH... BIT BY... BIT...
はぁ
はぁ
はぁ
OH... THERE WE GO!!
はぁ
はぁ
ガチャ

WELL, COME ON IN
WOW IT'S COOL TO GET TO SEE YOUR PLACE!
I DUNNO I'VE BEEN FEELING A BIT OF A HEADACHE TOO.
WHAT'S UP WITH YOU GUYS? YOU'RE ALL OUTTA SHAPE...
WELL, MY FRIEND SMOKES LIKE A FIRE SO MAYBE I'M LIKE CATCHING SOMETHING FROM HIM.
SECOND-HAND SMOKE KILLS!
ガチャ
?!!
OH! WELCOME BACK DUDE WELCOME BACK
はぁ
はぁ
はぁ
KAVU



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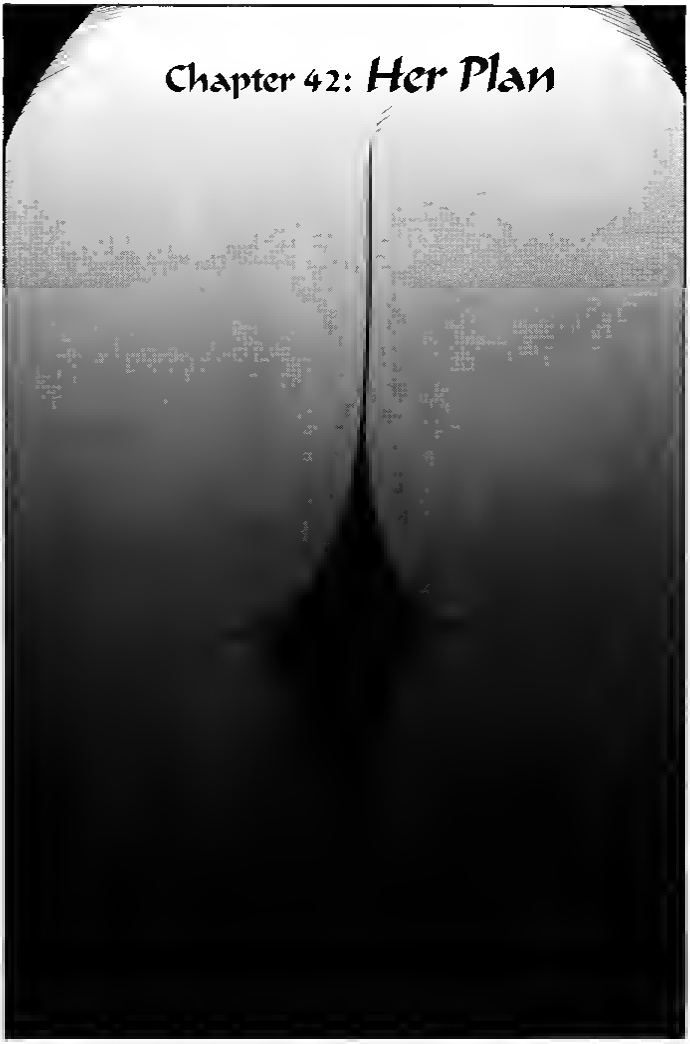
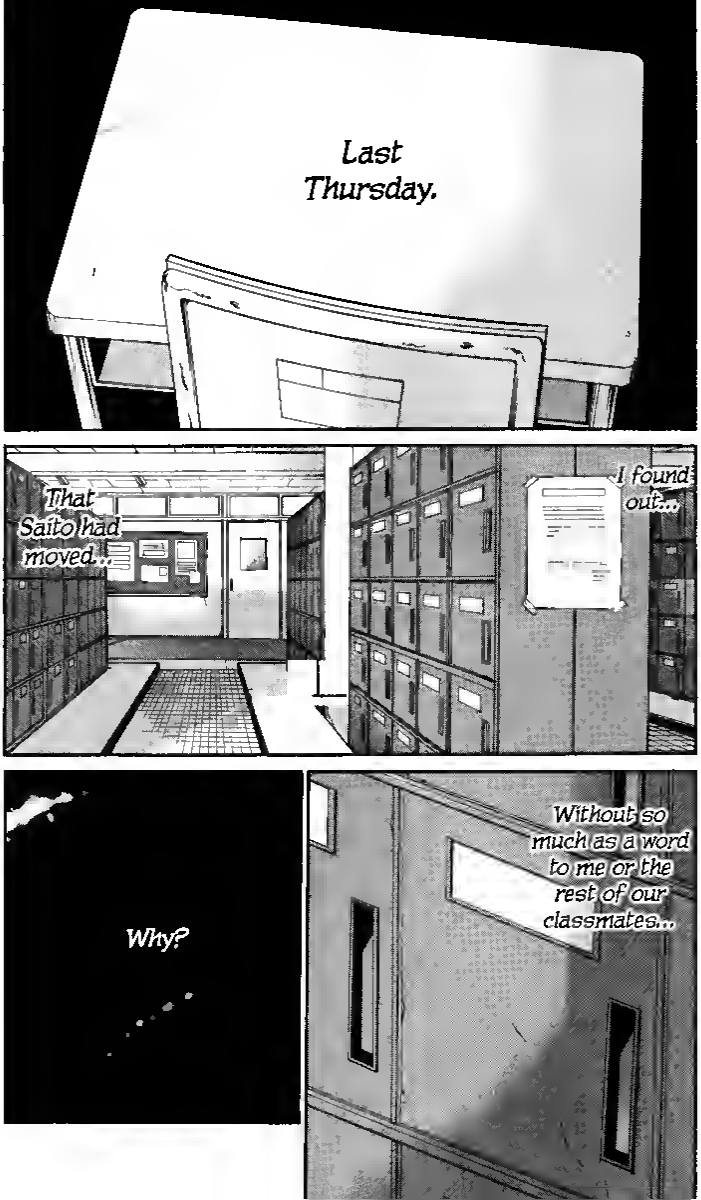
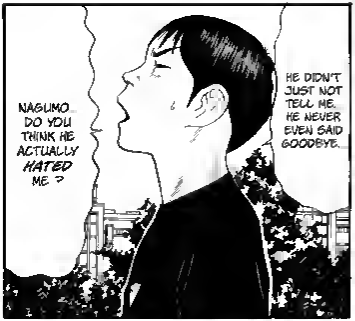
CIRCUITRA

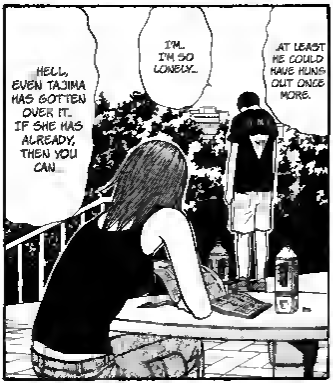
Chapter 42: *Her Plan*

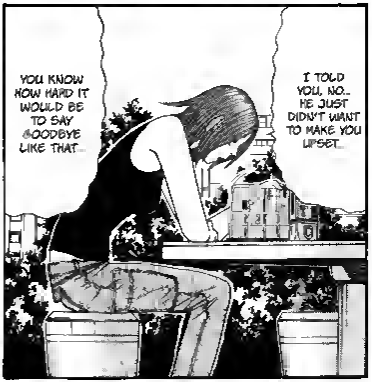


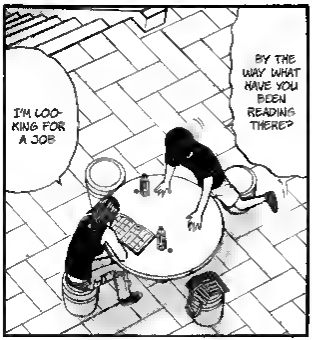

Last
Thursday.
That
Saito had
moved...
I found
out...
Why?
Without so
much as a word
to me or the
rest of our
classmates...


NAGUMO... DO YOU THINK HE ACTUALLY HATED ME?
HE DIDN'T JUST NOT TELL ME. HE NEVER EVEN SAID GOODBYE.

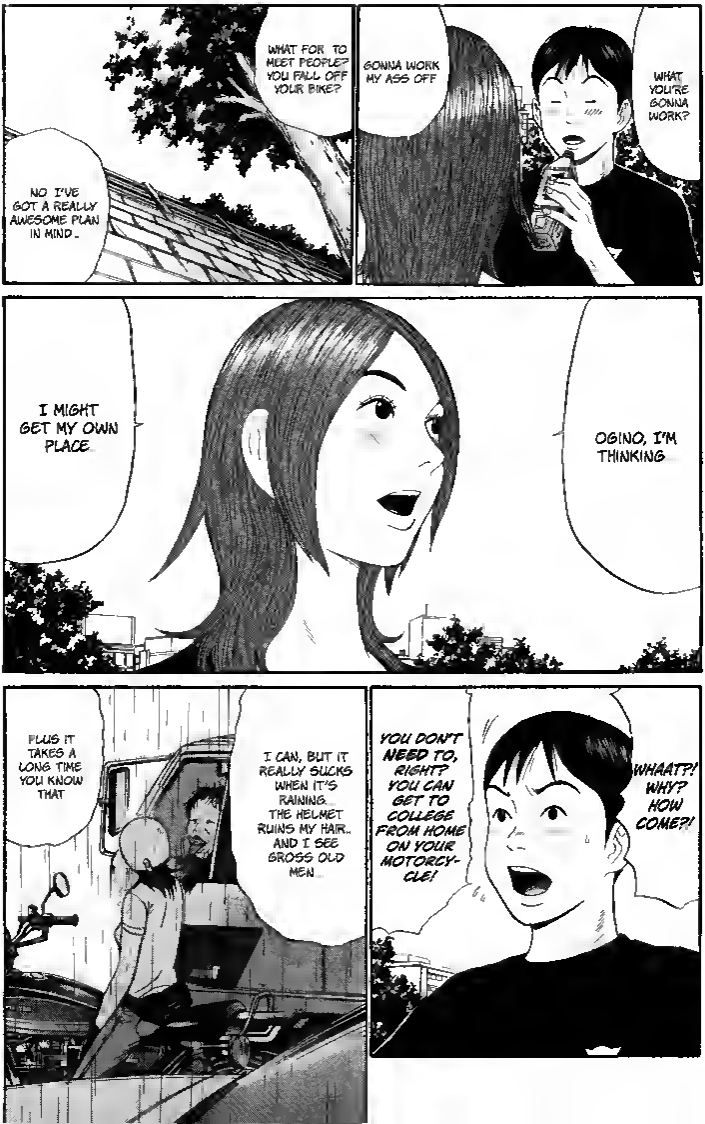
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE HE NEVER TOLD ME?


HELL, EVEN TAJIMA HAS GOTTEN OVER IT. IF SHE HAS ALREADY, THEN YOU CAN...
I'M... I'M SO LONELY...
AT LEAST HE COULD HAVE HUNG OUT ONCE MORE.


YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT WOULD BE TO SAY GOODBYE LIKE THAT...
I TOLD YOU, NO... HE JUST DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE YOU UPSET...


I'M LOO-KING FOR A JOB
BY THE WAY WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN READING THERE?

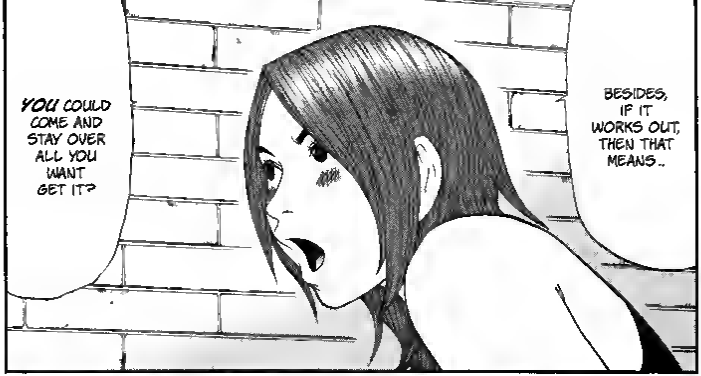
I THOUGHT WE WOULD BE BEST FRIENDS FOREVER...
NOOOO, SAITOOO


WHAT FOR TO MEET PEOPLE? YOU FALL OFF YOUR BIKE?
NO I'VE GOT A REALLY AWESOME PLAN IN MIND..
GONNA WORK MY ASS OFF
WHAT YOU'RE GONNA WORK?
I MIGHT GET MY OWN PLACE
OGINO, I'M THINKING...
PLUS IT TAKES A LONG TIME YOU KNOW THAT
I CAN, BUT IT REALLY SUCKS WHEN IT'S RAINING... THE HELMET RUINS MY HAIR.. AND I SEE GROSS OLD MEN...
YOU DON'T NEED TO, RIGHT? YOU CAN GET TO COLLEGE FROM HOME ON YOUR MOTORCYCLE!
WHAAT?! WHY? HOW COME?!

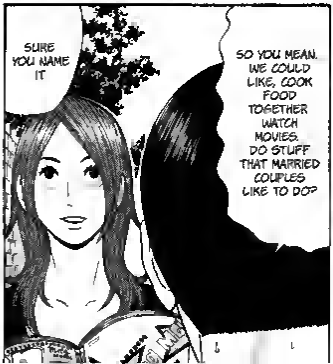
SEE WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? IT'S A BETTER USE OF MONEY!
ABOUT AN HOUR...
SO JUST TAKE THE TRAIN, THEN... HOW LONG WOULD THAT TAKE?
OH COME ON WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!

MY SCHOOL'S OUT IN THE STICKS TOO SO RENT AROUND THERE WILL BE CHEAP
YOU KNOW... I'VE SEEN ALL THESE PEOPLE THAT LIVE ON THEIR OWN AND THEY SEEM SO HAPPY...

MAN! SO YOU'RE *REALLY* GOING TO LIVE BY YOURSELF?
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! WHY DO YOU HAVE TO ECHO MY PARENTS?!
YOU'RE CRAZY. YOU ALSO PERFECTLY DESCRIBED YOURSELF THERE.
THAT HOVERS AROUND COLLEGE KIDS... OR AM I JUST CRAZY?
B-BUT I'M STILL WORKED. THERE'S THIS BIG FUZZY HAZE OF SEXUALITY.


BESIDES, IF IT WORKS OUT, THEN THAT MEANS..
YOU COULD COME AND STAY OVER ALL YOU WANT GET IT?

OOH LA LA !!!


SURE YOU NAME IT
SO YOU MEAN, WE COULD LIKE, COOK FOOD TOGETHER WATCH MOVIES. DO STUFF THAT MARRIED COUPLES LIKE TO DO?

..WHAT?

OOH LA LA !!
THAT'S RIGHT.
all the time
AND THAT MEANS WE WON'T BE PRESSED FOR TIME LIKE AT THAT HOTEL
WE WON'T HAVE TO AVOID BEING OVER HEARD BY MOM OR MY BROTHER DAY OR NIGHT..
HMMMMM... MAYBE I SHOULD RETHINK MY POSITION...
ON LIVING ALONE
YOU REALLY ARE A PERV YOU JUST CHANGED YOUR POSITION 180 DEGREES
NO NOT BECAUSE OF THAT! I JUST THINK IT'S A GOOD STEP FOR YOU, TO BEING INDEPENDENT AND BEING AN ADULT..
STILL, REALITY IS TOUGH.. EVERYONE I KNOW WORKS A BUNCH..
AND I'LL HAVE TO GET USED TO THAT TOO..

Note Bento is a boxed lunch

マルワ弁当
THAT'S YOUR FIRST CHOICE?
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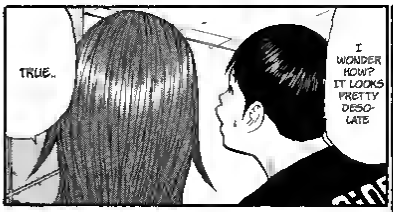
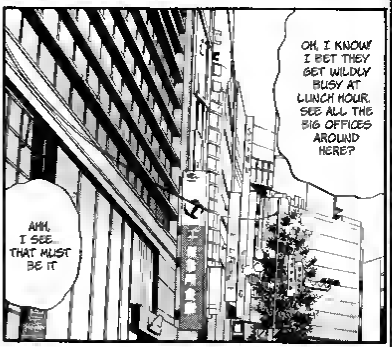
YUP.

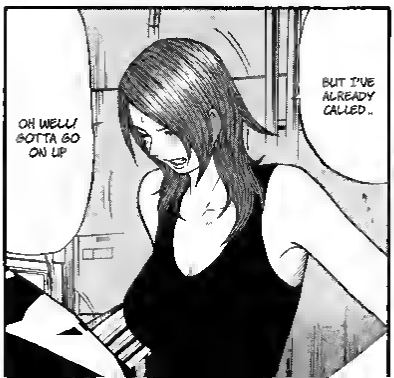

TRUE..
I WONDER HOW? IT LOOKS PRETTY DESO-LATE

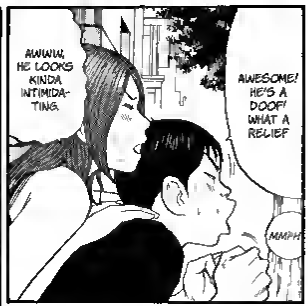
IT JUST LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL BENTO SHOP TO ME. IS THE PAY REALLY THAT GOOD?
YEAH, THEY PAY WELL AND EVERY OTHER FACTOR SOUNDS GOOD TOO.


OH, I KNOW I BET THEY GET WILDLY BUSY AT LUNCH HOUR. SEE ALL THE BIG OFFICES AROUND HERE?
AHH, I SEE. THAT MUST BE IT

WHAT, LEMME SEE! DOES HE LOOK MEAN?!
OH, HERE COMES AN EMPLOYEE! SHIT I HOPE HE'S NOT GOOD-LOOKING!

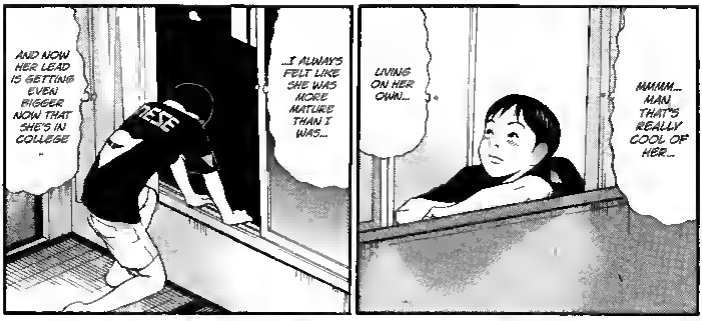
1,800
2,500
Tag Nitbayashi


OH WELL! GOTTA GO ON UP
BUT I'VE ALREADY CALLED..


AWWW, HE LOOKS KINDA INTIMIDATING.
AWESOME! HE'S A DOOF! WHAT A RELIEF
MMPH

GOOD LUCK!
OKAY, I'LL CALL YOU LATER THEN
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT?
YEAH, I CAN MANAGE
THANKS FOR COMING ALONG WITH ME YOU CAN GO TO YOUR OWN WORK NOW.

Of course, she passed her interview,
and they set her to working the very next day...


MMMM... MAN THAT'S REALLY COOL OF HER...
LIVING ON HER OWN...
...I ALWAYS FELT LIKE SHE WAS MORE MATURE THAN I WAS...
AND NOW HER LEAD IS GETTING EVEN BIGGER NOW THAT SHE'S IN COLLEGE...

NOW I HAVE TO FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE SO THE DISTANCE BETWEEN US DOESN'T GET TOO FAR...

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GOD, I HATE WOMEN.
HUH?
...WAS HE TALKING TO ME?
...OR TO HIMSELF?

I HATE THEM SO MUCH IT JUST KILLS ME
UMMM... IS THIS DIRECTED AT ME PERCHANCE?
...HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A MAN TALK TO A BANNER BEFORE?
HUH?
IS THIS SOME SORT OF FEMININE PLOT TO CAST ME AS A "WEIRDO WHO SPENDS HIS TIME TALKING TO INANIMATE BANNERS"?
WHAT?! WHAT?!
DON'T GIVE ME THAT SHIT.

DOES IT SOUND LIKE PICKING? I'M JUST INTRODUCING MYSELF
THAT'S RIGHT! THE BOSS WILL YELL AT YOU AGAIN YOU KNOW
HEY! NIIBAYASHI YOU STOP PICKING ON THE NEW GIRL! IT'S ONLY HER FIRST DAY
IN ORDER FOR US TO GET ALONG AT ALL, IT BEHOOVES US TO BE AWARE OF WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE WE ARE.
SHE WILL END UP WORKING WITH ME ALL DAY ON DELIVERIES AND SUCH.
...THE ENTIRE DAY...
Y-YES, SIR.
YOU NEED TO MEMORIZE THE ROUTES ASAP
WE'RE MAKING DELIVERIES AT 11

OH... KAY...
YEAH, JUST PHASE HIS NOISE INTO THE BACKGROUND!
DON'T YOU PAY ATTENTION TO THAT LITTLE TWERP! DON'T LET HIM GET TO YOU!
HE ALWAYS DRIVES THE NEW KIDS OUT IN NO TIME!
ESPECIALLY GIRLS! THEY DON'T LAST THREE DAYS.
THE THING IS, HE'S VERY DEDICATED TO HIS WORK HE'S NEVER MISSED A DELIVERY BY A SINGLE SECOND AFTER EIGHT WHOLE YEARS!
OH YES THE BOSS AND THE CUSTOMERS JUST LOVE HIM, UNFORTUNATELY!
THE OUTSIDERS THINK HE'S JUST GREAT, BUT FOR THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE TO WORK WITH HIM...
RIGHT, EXACTLY! GOD IT'S JUST LIKE MY HUSBAND
ちはは
Hahaha
Take it easy... Just settle down.

Let's see... what do I do?
Follow Ogino's example of mental sorting...
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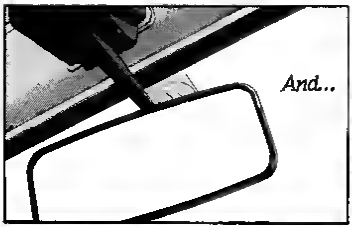
And...

My current motivation...
is "not to let anything get me down now."
...yeah...

LET ME GUESS. YOU'RE WISHING YOU COULD TAKE OUT YOUR CELLPHONE AND GET IN TOUCH WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND OR GIRLFRIEND OR WHOEVER?

THEY DON'T TAKE THE TIME TO HANDLE IT THEMSELVES
PEOPLE THESE DAYS IMMEDIATELY TRY TO DIGEST THEIR OWN FEAR AND UNEASE BY SHARING IT WITH OTHERS
YOU DON'T WANT TO REALIZE THAT YOU'RE GROWING SOFT AS YOU AGE, DO YOU?
IT IS UNEASE THAT STRENGTHENS THE HUMAN SPIRIT. YOU WILL BE RUINED IN THE FUTURE IF YOU DON'T FACE IT HEAD-ON.
"If I just can't handle it at all..."
"...I'll quit."
That works for me...
SUZUKI

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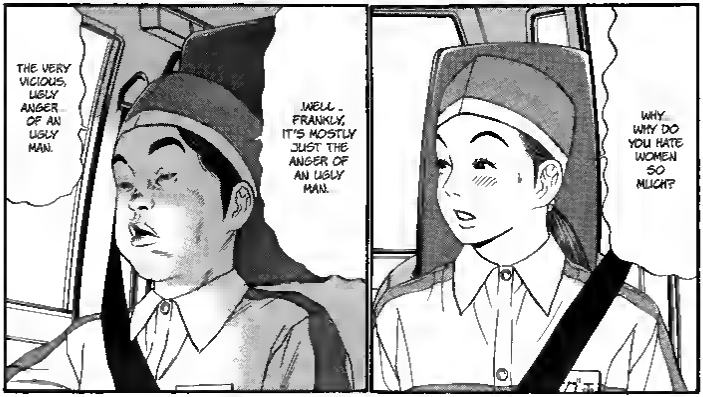
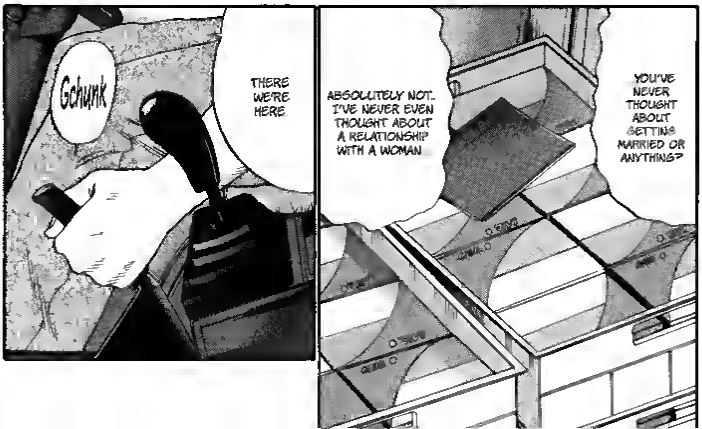
QUATERA
FUG
YOUTH

Chapter 43: 2nd Day of Work

NO.. I DON'T..
NO MODESTY PLEASE. YOU DO DON'T YOU?
I DON'T -
NO
SO DON'T COME TO WORK THE WAY YOU HAVE SO FAR, ASSUMING YOU CAN JUST SMILE AND EVERY THING IS FORGIVEN.
PERSONALLY I DON'T LET APPEARANCES AFFECT MY ACTIONS IN THE SLIGHTEST BIT I JUST DON'T CARE. I TREAT EVERYONE THE SAME
AND BASED ON THAT PERCEPTION, THEY ARE AT LEAST 30% MORE LIKELY TO BE NICE TO YOU
WELL EVEN IF YOU DON'T YOURSELF CHANCES ARE THAT THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU DO..
WE'VE HAD OTHER GIRLS WORK PARTTIME BUT THEY WERE ALL ROTTEN ON THE INSIDE IT ONLY MAKES MY SUSPICIONS WORSE
ALSO, I HAVE NEVER MET A WOMAN THAT WAS BOTH GOOD-LOOKING ON THE OUTSIDE AND GOOD ON THE INSIDE..
YOU DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT ME! STOP MAKING ASSUMPTIONS!
OH MY GOD, WHAT IS THIS SHIT-HEAD TALKING ABOUT?! HE THINKS I WAS BORN WITH A SILVER SPOON IN MY MOUTH!

SUZUKI
GO AHEAD..
ERRM.. COULD I ASK A QUESTION, THEN?


THE VERY VICIOUS, UGLY ANGER... OF AN UGLY MAN.
WELL.. FRANKLY, IT'S MOSTLY JUST THE ANGER OF AN UGLY MAN.
WHY... WHY DO YOU HATE WOMEN SO MUCH?


Gchunk
THERE WE'RE HERE.
ABSOLUTELY NOT. I'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT A RELATIONSHIP WITH A WOMAN.
YOU'VE NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT GETTING MARRIED OR ANYTHING?

HUH?
HOWEVER I DO LIKE BREASTS

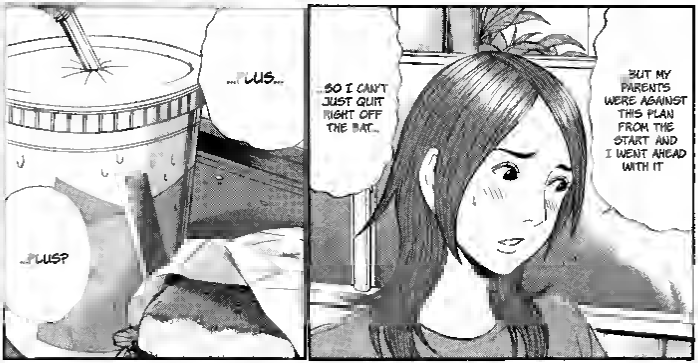
TO BE PRECISE, BREASTS ARE JUST THE IDEAL OF THEIR CATEGORY
I LIKE ALL THINGS THAT ARE SOFT LIKE THAT
UHH YOU MEAN, LIKE WATER BALLOONS?
NO, NOT WATER BALLOONS THOSE ARE JUST WATER IT CAN'T JUST BE SOFT.
IT'S SO ODD, IT EVEN PUZZLES ME AND IT'S NOT THE SAME THING AS JUST PLAIN EROTICISM.
I DON'T HAVE ANY DESIRE FOR ACTUAL WOMENS' CHESTS. THERE'S NO EXPLAINING IT
ガラ ガラ
OKAY, THEN WHAT ABOUT LIKE, SOFT TENNIS BALLS?
THOSE ARE JUST AIR. IT'S MORE COMPLEX THAN THAT
knock knock
GOOD DAY, MARUWA IS HERE.
AH GREAT, FOOD'S ON!
HEYA

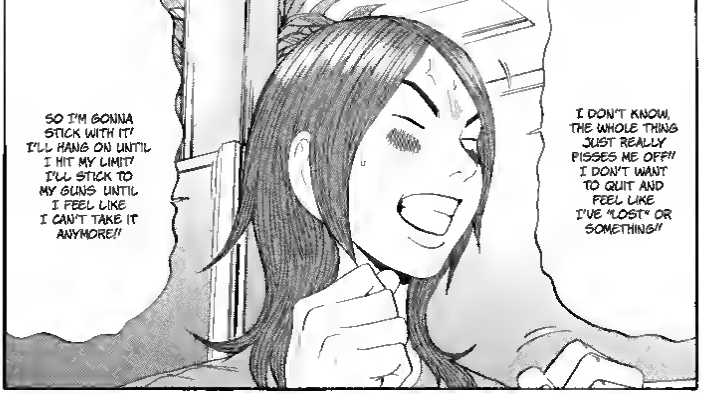
SO, YOU GOT ANOTHER NEW EMPLOYEE?
YES. IT'S HER FIRST DAY
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU
UH, SURE
OOOH, BET SHE BRIGHTENS UP THE WORK PLACE!
THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS
HANG IN THERE, SWEETHEART!
UH, THANK YOU.
WELL, THAT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU
...WHAT IS?
...I MEAN... IF YOU'VE NEVER CONSIDERED DATING A WOMAN.
...HOW WILL YOU GET TO TOUCH THEIR BREASTS?

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M DYING TO TOUCH THEM YEAR ROUND. THE DEPRIVAL DOESN'T BOTHER ME...
AND IF I CAN'T BEAR IT, WELL THERE ARE ESTABLISH-MENTS I CAN VISIT TO REMEDY THAT.
AH, OF COURSE
WHAT?! ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!
AND YOU HAVE TO WORK WITH THIS CREEP?!!

IT IS THAT VERY GUY..
IT ISN'T THAT FUCKING GUY WE SAW FOR A SECOND WALKING OUTSIDE THE SHOP YESTERDAY, IS IT?!
I'M INCREDIBLY EXHAUSTED, AND IN JUST ONE DAY
I DUNNO I'M JUST EX HAUSTED

I JUST KNOW THAT GUY'S GONNA ASK TO SEE YOUR TITS!
MAN ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT THIS? ISN'T THAT GONNA BE LIKE HELL? YOU SHOULD JUST QUIT FOR REALS
UMMMM, I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT..


...PLUS...
...SO I CAN'T JUST QUIT RIGHT OFF THE BAT..
BUT MY PARENTS WERE ABAINST THIS PLAN FROM THE START AND I WENT AHEAD WITH IT
...PLUS?


I DON'T KNOW. THE WHOLE THING JUST REALLY PISSES ME OFF!! I DON'T WANT TO QUIT AND FEEL LIKE I'VE "LOST" OR SOMETHING!!
SO I'M GONNA STICK WITH IT! I'LL HANG ON UNTIL I HIT MY LIMIT! I'LL STICK TO MY GUNS UNTIL I FEEL LIKE I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!!

WOW. I WOULD HAVE TOLD THEM "I QUIT" AS I WAS LEAVING ON THE VERY FIRST DAY.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS? IT SOUNDS CRAZY
MAN. DO YOU THINK I SHOULD ACT LIKE A CUSTOMER AND COME CHECK ON YOU TOMORROW?
N... NO WAY! I JUST KNOW HE'LL SAY SOMETHING LIKE "YOU'RE A PATHETIC SPOILED BRAT WHO CAN'T KEEP HER PROFESSIONAL AND PRIVATE LIVES SEPARATE"!

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WHAT, SHE CAME BACK?!
OHMYGOD, SHE CAME!!
OF COURSE I CAME BACK!
YOU SEE? I *TOLD* YOU! THIS GIRL'S GOT SOME SPINE!
パチ パチ
SHE DID! I DON'T BELIEVE IT, SHE'S BACK!
YES?!
HEY.

YES SIR.
AND DON'T GET YOUR UNIFORM DIRTY WE PREPARE FOOD HERE
ONCE YOU'VE CHANGED GO AROUND BACK AND WIPE OFF THE VAN
WHEW-WWW
AFTER ALL I SAID TO OGINO...
HOW LONG CAN I REALLY LAST HERE..?
OPEN?
WELL... I THINK THIS'LL ABOUT DO IT...
BETTER GET BACK BEFORE HE YELLS AT ME FOR TAKING TOO LONG.

YOU ASSUME THE INSIDE CAN BE DIRTY, SO LONG AS IT LOOKS NICE FROM OUTSIDE? YOU ARE A TEXTBOOK EXAMPLE OF THE TWISTED HUMAN SOUL.
HMMM. WAIT A SEC.
MAYBE I'LL JUST GIVE THE INSIDE A LITTLE CLEAN-UP, TOO.
creak
I'M NOT GONNA LET HIM PUSH ME AROUND!
!!!
VERY GOOD
OKAY I WASHED THE CAR!
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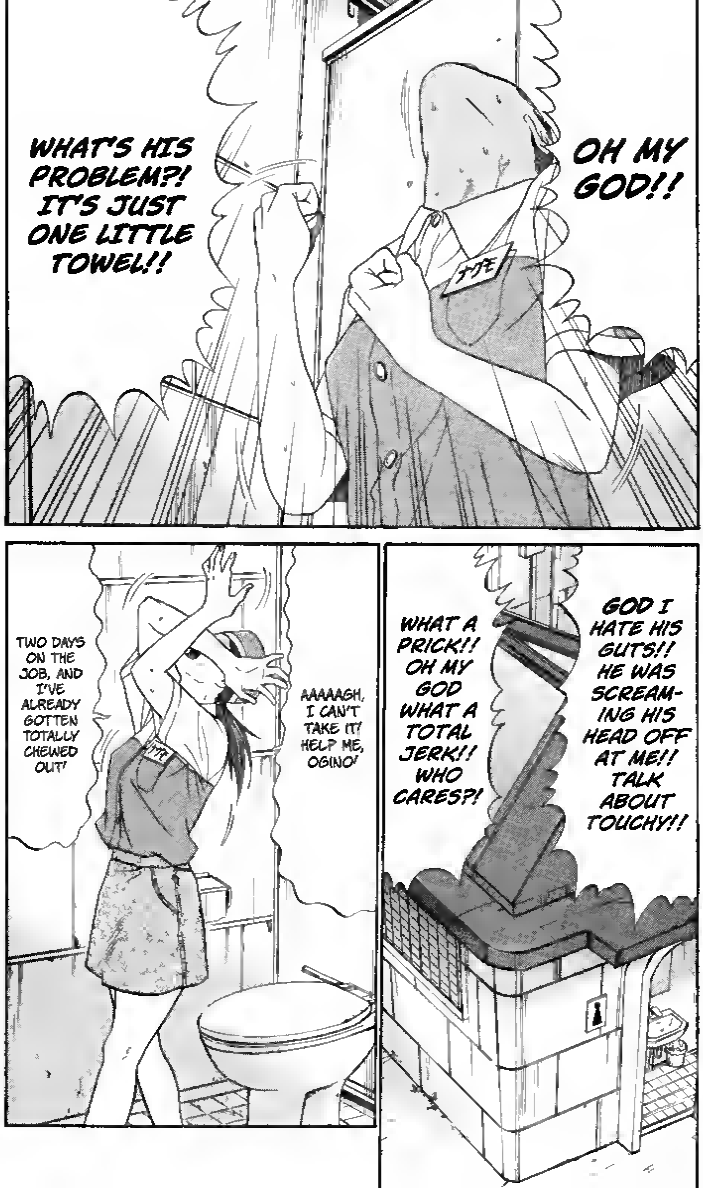
WHAT IN THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING ?!!
I GAVE YOU A RAG TO WASH THE CAR WITH, DIDN'T I?!!
WHY ARE YOU USING THE TOWEL ?!!

THIS IS MY PERSONAL TOWEL, YOU IDIOT!! IT'S NOT YOURS TO USE!!
HUH?! B-BUT, DIDN'T YOU LEAVE THAT RAG INSIDE THE CAR??

FORGET IT! JUST GET OUT OF HERE!!
I-I'M SORRY! I'LL GO WASH IT!
YOU STUPID BITCH, JUST LOOK AT IT!! IT'S ABSOLUTELY FILTHY NOW!! THIS WILL NEVER COME OUT!!


OH MY GOD!!
WHAT'S HIS PROBLEM?! IT'S JUST ONE LITTLE TOWEL!!
GOD I HATE HIS GUTS!! HE WAS SCREAMING HIS HEAD OFF AT ME!! TALK ABOUT TOUCHY!!
WHAT A PRICK!! OH MY GOD WHAT A TOTAL JERK!! WHO CARES?!
AAAAAGH, I CAN'T TAKE IT! HELP ME, OGINO!
TWO DAYS ON THE JOB, AND I'VE ALREADY GOTTEN TOTALLY CHEWED OUT!

PEOPLE THESE DAYS IMMEDIATELY TRY TO DIGEST THEIR OWN FEAR AND UNEASE BY SHARING IT WITH OTHERS. SPOILED BRATS
UGH.. NGG
...WHAT SHOULD I DO? CAN I HANDLE THIS?
...WHAT DO I DO OSINO...
ACK!!
AHA!
THERE YOU ARE.
カシャ
バタ

DON'T DO IT!! I CAN'T TAKE IT!!
OH SHIT! HE'S HERE TO FINISH THE JOB!!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT.
. I'M SORRY FOR YELLING AT YOU, NAGUMO...

BESIDES, IT WAS MY FAULT FOR LEAVING THE TOWEL THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE. I'M SORRY.
YES, IT WAS TATTERED AND PROBABLY LOOKED LIKE A RAG TO YOU. AFTER CONSIDERING THE SITUATION I CANNOT BLAME YOU FOR IT..
HUH?

Ciguatera Chapter 43 - END

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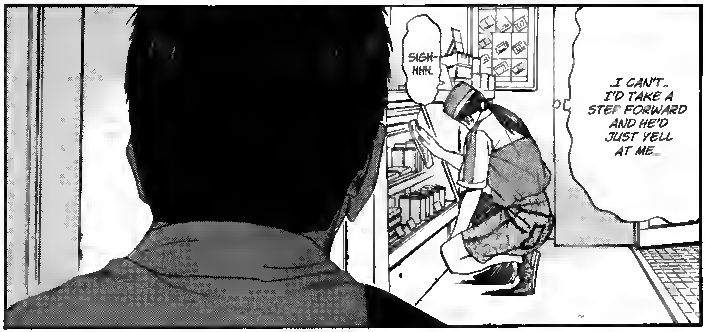
QUATERA
FUG
YOUTH

吉野 表司
Chapter-44: Boss

Maruwa Bento has four other stores beside this one...
Even though we're the smallest, we're apparently the home base
お弁当
The busy time is from midmorning to after noon,
and after that there's nothing to do, so you get very sleepy.
The other employees Yamada and Aki are 6-year veterans...
They give me the most unhealthy, calorie-heavy snacks to eat, and I've gained weight.
...and then there's Mr Nibayashi, who is 30 and supervises...
He hates women and spends his days searching out soft things.
STAFF ONLY
GOD NIBAYASHI'S BEEN HERE FOREVER, RIGHT? WASN'T HE PART OF THE VERY FIRST ORIGINAL COMPANY STAFF?
THAT'S RIGHT! HE'S GOT THE PRESIDENT RIGHT IN HIS POCKET! NO WONDER HE ACTS LIKE HE'S SO HIGH AND MIGHTY!!
AHHHHH.

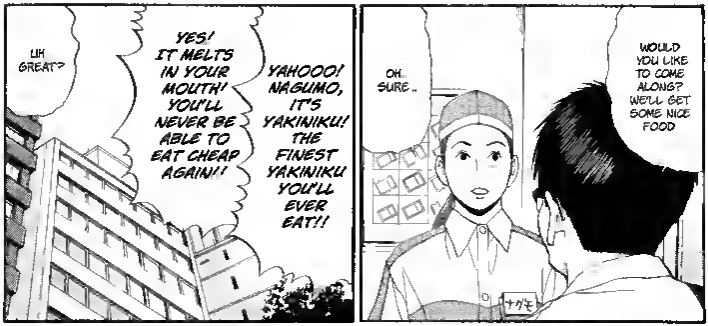
The supervisor has been holed up in the staff room, fondling some newfangled bra padding he just bought.
STAFF ONLY
I GUESS IT MUST BE DOING THE TRICK?
HE SURE ISN'T COMING OUT.
...I JUST CAN'T FIT IN...
I can't fit in with him and be friends...
Not just me, but the two longtime workers too...
IT'S LIKE, YOU KNOW HOW EVERYONE HAS SOME BUTTON YOU CAN PUSH TO MAKE 'EM MAD?
THE THING WITH HIM IS, I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT OR WHERE IT IS!
I KNOW! SOMETIMES HE JUST GETS MAD AT YOU FOR TALKING!
IT'S BEST JUST NOT TO TALK AT ALL! IGNORE HIM! OTHERWISE YOU GO CRAZY
WELL, THAT MIGHT WORK FOR US, BUT I DON'T THINK IT'S AN OPTION FOR NAGUMO, HERE
TRUE. YOU'VE GOT TO BE TOGETHER WITH HIM ALL THE TIME.
My stomach hurts everytime I come in to work. Maybe it's stress...

...THE QUESTION IS, WHETHER I JUST KEEP WORKING WITHOUT ROCKING THE BOAT, NEVER MAKING FRIENDS WITH HIM AND ALWAYS FEELING STRESS...
OR IF I GATHER MY COURAGE TAKE THAT STEP FORWARD AND GET TO KNOW HIM... AND TRY TO CREATE A WORKPLACE WITHOUT STRESS...


SIGH...
HMM.
I CAN'T... I'D TAKE A STEP FORWARD AND HE'D JUST YELL AT ME...

GOOD WORK TODAY.
WHY, HELLO THERE EVERYONE

WOW, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?!
!!
YIPPEEE, IT'S THE BOSS!! BOSS, BOSS, BOSS!!
LOOK, IT'S THE BOSS!! BOSS IS HERE!!
ガチャ
WELCOME BACK, SIR
YAHOO! IT'S YAKINIKU TONIGHT, GIRLS!
YES, LET'S GET SOME DINNER TOGETHER
BOSS, IS TODAY A DAY WHEN YOU'LL TAKE US OUT FOR DINNER?! IS IS THAT KIND OF DAY?!
AWW WHAT'S THE HARM YOU NEVER COME
ER I'D RATHER NOT
YOU HAVEN'T HAD A WELCOMING PARTY FOR THE NEW GIRL HAVE YOU?
AHH, NIKAYASHI WHAT DO YOU SAY AFTER WORK ?


WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME ALONG? WE'LL GET SOME NICE FOOD
OH... SURE..
ナグモ
YAHOOO! NAGUMO, IT'S YAKINIKU! THE FINEST YAKINIKU YOU'LL EVER EAT!!
YES! IT MELTS IN YOUR MOUTH! YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO EAT CHEAP AGAIN!!
UH GREAT?

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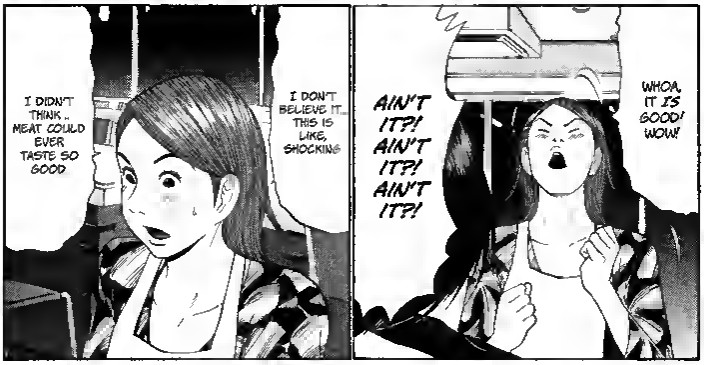
DOWN THE HATCH
YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO CHEW! IT MELTS!
EAT UP! TRY THIS SALTED TONGUE!


I DIDN'T THINK.. MEAT COULD EVER TASTE SO GOOD
I DON'T BELIEVE IT.. THIS IS LIKE, SHOCKING
AIN'T IT?! AIN'T IT?! AIN'T IT?!
WHOA, IT IS GOOD! WOW!

I WONDER IF HE FOLLOWS A DECENT DIET..
WHY COULDN'T NIIBAYASHI COME, TOO?
BOSS'S VISITS ARE ALL I LOOK FORWARD TO! I LOVE MY BOSS! HE'S THE KING!!
BUT IT DOES! YOU JUST HAVE TO PAY GOOD MONEY!! THIS IS LIKE THE ONLY THING I LOOK FORWARD TO IN LIFE ANY-MORE!!

YEAH. WE'D BE TOO DISTRACTED TO ENJOY THE FLAVOR!
HE'LL NEVER MAKE UP! JUST HIM BEING HERE WOULD SUCK!
POOR GUY'S A LOST CAUSE. STILL CAN'T GET ALONG WITH ANYONE, AT HIS AGE.
WHEN I HEARD HIM, I JUST THOUGHT, "WELL, THAT'S THE LAST WE'LL SEE OF HER POOR THING."
HE SCREAMED AT YOU ON LIKE THE 2ND DAY, DIDN'T HE? SOMETHING ABOUT A TOWEL..
HAHAHA. WELL, I MANAGE.
I HAVE TO SAY NAGUMO, YOU'VE GOT GUTS! NONE OF THE GIRLS HAS EVER LASTED 10 DAYS
I MISTOOK HIS TOWEL FOR A CLEANING RAG, AND I USED IT.
HE YELLED AT HER FOR USING HIS TOWEL
WHAT? TOWEL?

IT'S EXTREMELY PRECIOUS TO HIM.
OHH... WELL YES, HE WOULD BE MAD, THEN...
WAS IT A WHITE, RAGGED ONE?
YES
ALL RIGHT! I'VE GOT TO SAY IT! BOSS, IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING ABOUT HIM, WE'RE NEVER GOING TO KEEP ANY PART-TIMERS!!
YES! AND YOU NEVER HEARD AN ADULT MAN SHOUT SO!
PRECIOUS? BUT STILL, IT'S JUST A TOWEL!
THAT'S RIGHT! IT'S TIME TO STEEL YOUR HEART AND TELL HIM OFF!!
I KNOW HE'S YOUR FAVORITE, BUT HE'S JUST A TERRIBLE PERSON! NOBODY'S GOING TO WANT TO WORK HERE ANY-MORE!
...
I JUST FELT LIKE QUIT-TING!! MORE THAN I CAN COUNT !!
THAT'S RIGHT! I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES HE'S SHOUTED AT ME SO BAD ..

MEMS GIGI
I'LL GIVE HIM A GOOD TALKING TO...
WELL ALL RIGHT THEN...
2F
COME ON, NAGUMO, LET'S DO KARAOKE!
THANKS FOR THE FOOOD!
2F
GOOD-NIGHT, BOSS!
GOODNIGHT LADIES
NO. MAYBE NEXT TIME THOUGH.

SURE...
SHALL WE GO TO THE STATION TOGETHER?
NO, I'M GOING HOME
YOU AREN'T GOING TO GO KARAOKE?
I SEE
...MMMM.
BUT HE IS HARD TO WORK WITH.
NO. I DON'T HATE HIM..
NIIBAYASHI
...DO YOU HATE HIM, TOO?

Hmmm... Is his towel really that important to him?
He's a good guy at heart, though.
...I can see that...
He said it was a "good opportunity" to get rid of it and he came back and said it wasn't really my fault, but...
I see.
Well he had good words about you. He said "this part-timer has her act together."
And he never says that. It's the first time I've ever heard him compliment one of the young kids...
Oh, I didn't know that.
...Even though he's always so angry at me?
Let me tell you something.
...Yes?

HE WAS AN ORPHAN.
SEE, NIIBAYASHI...
三平酒
BASICALLY, HE WAS ABANDONED
HUH?

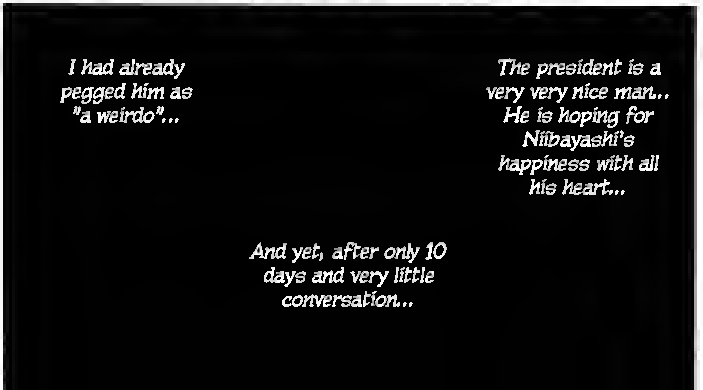
HE WAS BORN IN A FILTHY PUBLIC RESTROOM, OUTSIDE A TRAIN STATION...
BORN, AND LEFT...

WHEN THEY FOUND HIM, HE WAS WRAPPED UP IN THAT LITTLE TOWEL...
SO I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT'S LIKE A COMFORT OBJECT FOR HIM A KEEPSAKE...

I'M SURE HE'LL BE JUST FURIOUS IF HE FINDS OUT I SAID THIS HE'LL QUIT HIS JOB
OH. AND KEEP THIS A SECRET FROM THE OTHER LADIES AND NIIBAYASHI TOO
HE'LL DENY IT, I'M SURE.. BUT I KNOW THAT'S WHAT HE THINKS..
IT'S THE ONLY THING HIS MOTHER EVER LEFT HIM
HUH?
TO CLEAN THE CAR...
...I.. I USED HIS TOWEL..
ARE YOU NOT FEELING WELL?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I WIPED THE WHEEEELS WITH IT!
C'MON I'M SORRY LET'S JUST GO
OH! I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY. IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT! YOU HAD NO IDEA OF ANY OF THIS! IT'S ALL RIGHT! DON'T CRY!

After leaving the orphanage, Niibayashi jumped jobs,
met the president when he was 17, and has been here since.


I had already pegged him as "a weirdo"...
The president is a very very nice man... He is hoping for Niibayashi's happiness with all his heart...
And yet, after only 10 days and very little conversation...

He's suffered agony and loneliness that I could never, ever imagine...
He works hard and keeps it all in his chest.
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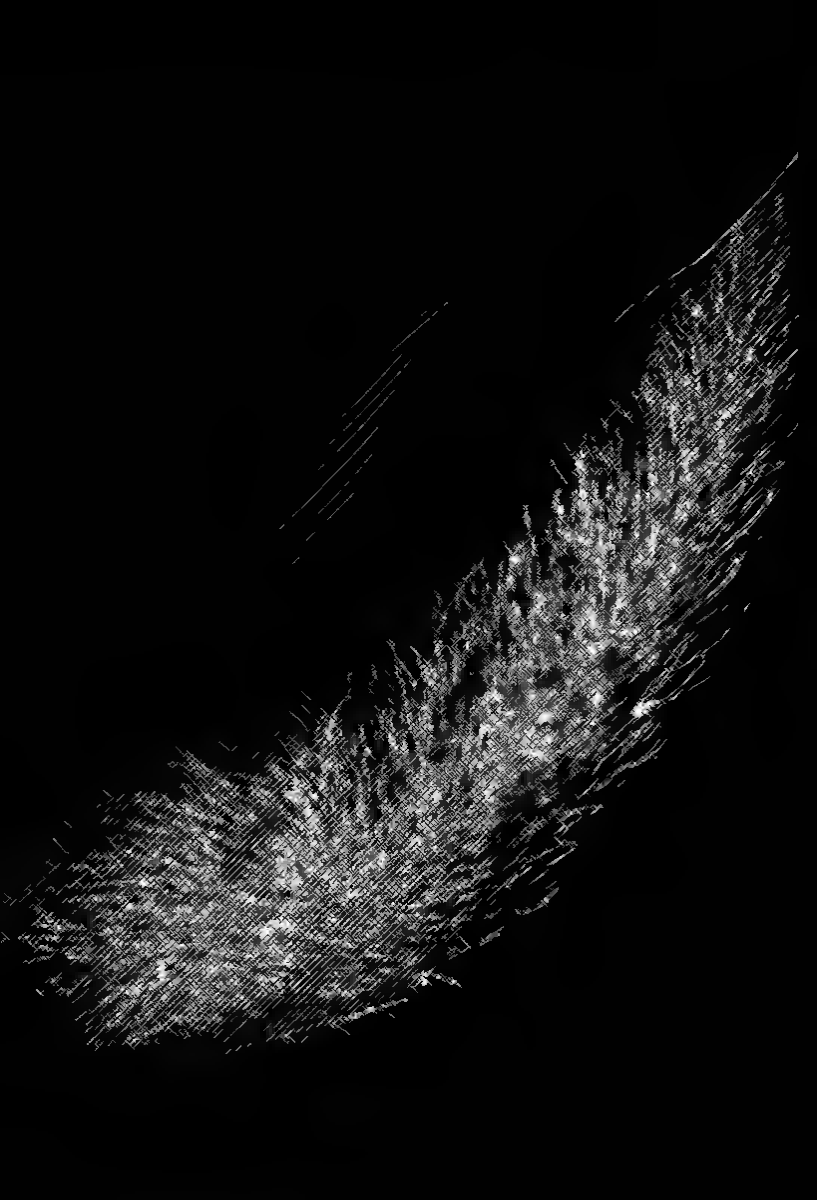
..NOTHING.
WHAT?

?
NO SYMPATHY! JUST RESPECT LIKE ALWAYS!
I CAN'T DO IT... BOSS IS RIGHT, IF I SHOW SYMPATHY TO HIM, IT'S ONLY A RUDENESS!

And the way he seeks out soft things... is a cry for maternal love?
is just hatred for his mother?
...does that mean that his hatred for women...?
Ciguatera Chapter 44 - END



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Chapter 45: Changes

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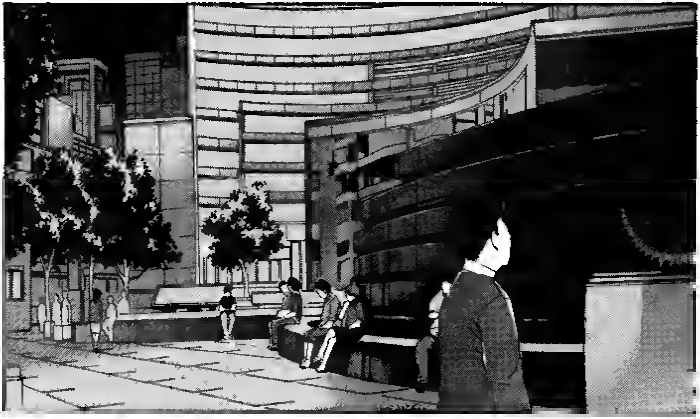
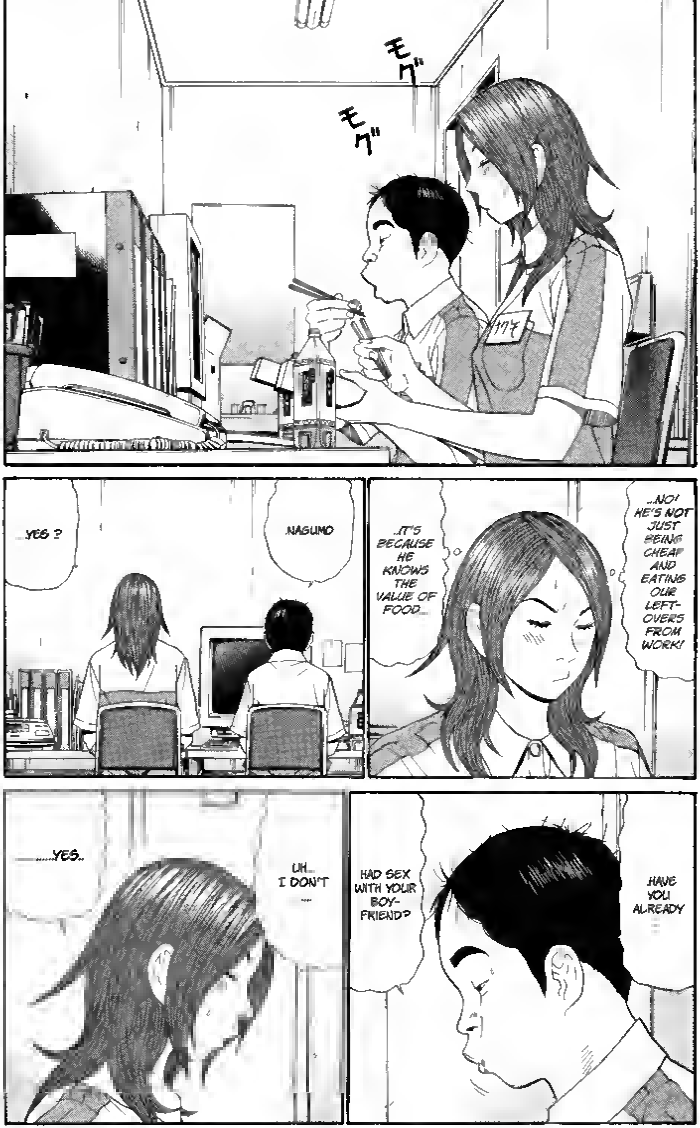
of conflicted emotions about my boss right now...
I am feeling a lot
I feel deep sympathy,
and some amount of respect...
All the hardship that he's had to live through up to today...
...a life that began by being abandoned in a public bathroom ...
The only keepsake and act of love she ever gave him,
and used it as a rag, thus obliterating it forever..
...I took the towel his mother left him...
Also... the guilt of knowing that...

There are some cases...
UH. UMMM.
When ignorance just isn't an excuse ...
DID YOU REALLY THROW IT AWAY ALREADY?
THAT TOWEL.. THAT I USED BEFORE
YES I DID
WHY ARE YOU STILL CONCERNED ABOUT THAT?
WELL.. I MEAN IT WAS REALLY IMPORTANT TO YOU, RIGHT? I WAS JUST THINKING, MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE WASHED IT AND IT WOULD BE OKAY
POSSIBLY BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW
...I'VE HAD THAT SINCE I WAS JUST A BOY...
EVEN WHEN THINGS WERE THEIR WORST, I COULD JUST BURY MY FACE IN IT.. AND I'D USUALLY GET OUT ALL RIGHT..
BUT I'M AN ADULT NOW. I KNEW I'D HAVE TO THROW IT AWAY SOMEDAY..
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. IT WAS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY

NAGUMO...
YOU'RE A GOOD PERSON
HUH?
HEY, HE'S SMILING
I GUESS THERE ARE WOMEN WITH THE INSIDE TO MATCH THEIR OUTSIDE
I THINK ONE OF MY PREJUDICES AGAINST WOMEN IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR
NAGUMO, WILL YOU BE THE FIRST FRIEND IN MY LIFE FROM THE OPPOSITE SEX?
HUH? OH UH, I.. I'D LOVE TO!
GOOD THEN THIS IS A SPECIAL DAY
WHEN WORK IS OVER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT SOME DINNER?

I'D LOVE TO
OH NO IT'S PERFECTLY FINE
DO YOU HAVE A DATE WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND? OR DOES IT CREEP YOU OUT THAT I'M ASKING?
HUH?

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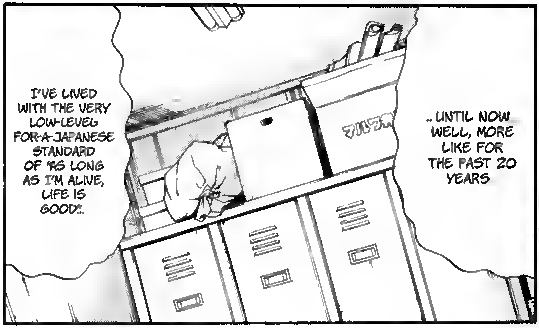
NAGUMO
YES ?
...IT'S BECAUSE HE KNOWS THE VALUE OF FOOD...
...NO! HE'S NOT JUST BEING CHEAP AND EATING OUR LEFT-OVERS FROM WORK!
.....YES..
UH... I DON'T ...
HAD SEX WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
HAVE YOU ALREADY ...

WELL... IS HE BIG DOWN THERE?
I DON'T KNOW...
I HAVE NO FRAME OF REFER ENCE.
STAFF ONLY
KUH?
NASUMO. I'M AFRAID I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TRUST IN YOU.
HMMM. IS THAT SO
SURE.. GO AHEAD.
I AM GOING TO ASK IF YOU WILL ENGAGE IN A VERY REAL AND HONEST DISCUSSION OF MY PROBLEMS.
AND... AS MY FIRST FRIEND OF THE FEMALE SEX...

NAGUMO..
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE YOU
...
TO COMPLETELY CHANGE MY LIFE AROUND

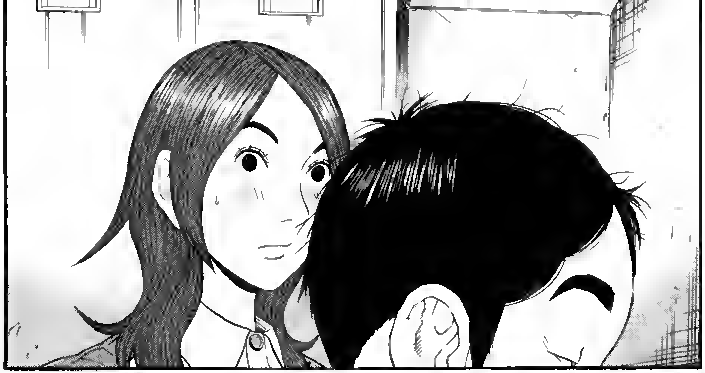

I'VE LIVED WITH THE VERY LOW-LEVEL FOR-A-JAPANESE STANDARD OF 'AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE, LIFE IS GOOD'.
..UNTIL NOW WELL, MORE LIKE FOR THE PAST 20 YEARS

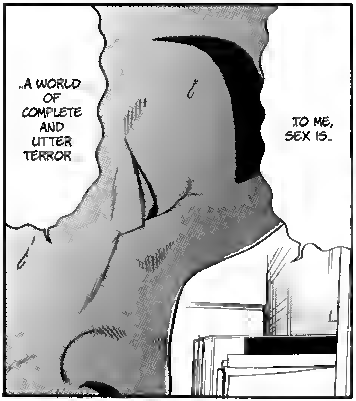
..CHANGE YOUR LIFE?

I JUST SPENT A VERY LONELY LIFE IN THE PURSUIT OF SOFT COMFORTING THINGS
AS A RESULT, I MADE NO FRIENDS.. NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT DATING A WOMAN

I HAD DECIDED THAT "I'M SUITED FOR THIS KIND OF LIFE THIS IS WHAT KIND OF PERSON I AM AT HEART"..
I WAS MORE STOIC THAN ANY MONK... I SPENT MY LIFE WITHOUT ANY SORT OF JOY OR RECREATION OF ANY SORT

THE COMPANY PRESIDENT LAMENTS THAT I'M TOO LONELY, THAT I MUST ACHIEVE A FULL LIFE OF HUMAN CONTACT AND LOVE...
IF I COULD HAVE MAYBE I WOULD HAVE DONE THAT... BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW THE DARKNESS THAT LIES WITHIN MY HEART...
SO, WHY DON'T I? WHY HAVE I TURNED INTO SUCH A TWISTED, HATEFUL CREATURE?
WHY HAVE I FELT NO INTEREST IN THE FEMALE SEX... BUT RATHER, HATRED AND LOATHING.?
THE ANSWER, NAGUMO... IS THAT I HAVE A REMARKABLY TINY PENIS
AND I HAVE NOT ACHIEVED ERECTION IN THE PAST 20 YEARS...




TO ME, SEX IS...
...A WORLD OF COMPLETE AND UTTER TERROR...

...SO IT'S LIKE A COMPLEX FOR YOU?
...YES...
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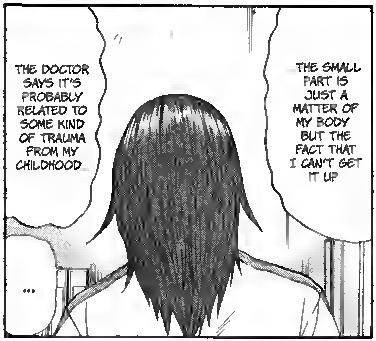
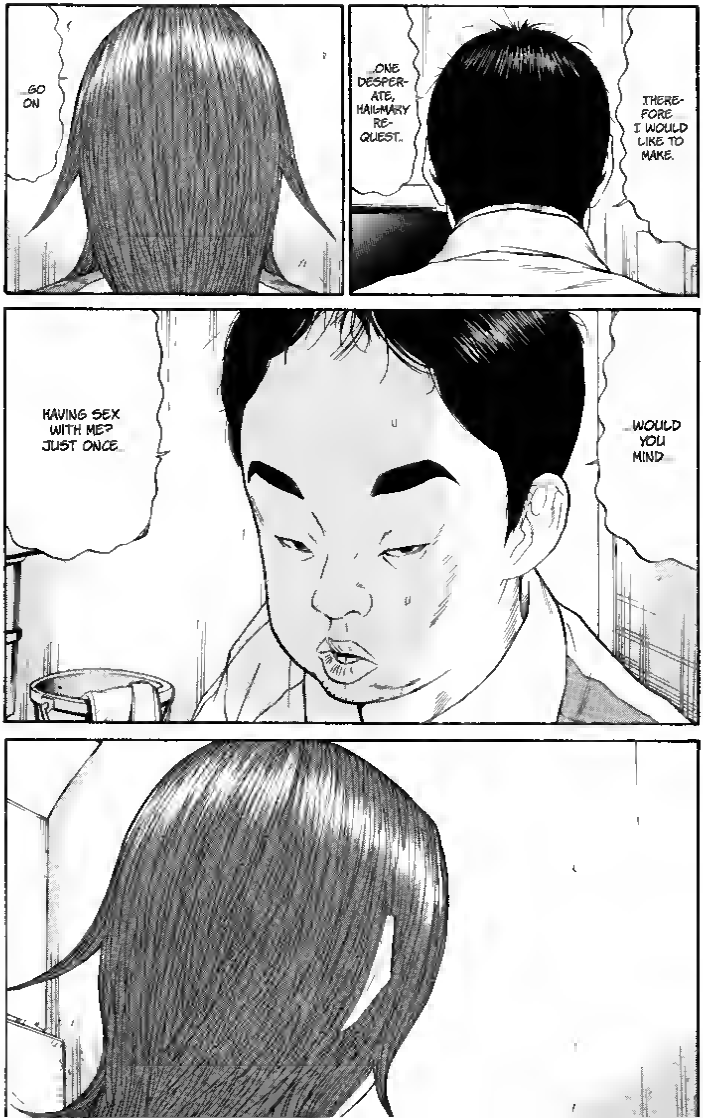

...THE SMALL PART IS JUST A MATTER OF MY BODY BUT THE FACT THAT I CAN'T GET IT UP
THE DOCTOR SAYS IT'S PROBABLY RELATED TO SOME KIND OF TRAUMA FROM MY CHILDHOOD
...

...A TINY SEXUAL ORGAN...
...BARELY LARGER THAN THE TIP OF YOUR PINKY FINGER...

MIRA-CLE?
...A MIRACLE FINALLY OCCURED
BUT.. LAST NIGHT..
AND IT WAS A SUCCESS... A WONDERFUL SUCCESS
NAGUMO.. LAST NIGHT I IMAGINED THAT I WAS HAVING SEX WITH YOU... AND I ATTEMPTED MASTURBATION
WHAT I'M SAYING IS THAT SINCE I MET YOU, I AM CHANGING MYSELF.
NOW, DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA.. I'M NOT PROFESSING LOVE FOR YOU... I'M REVEALING MY CONCERNS TO YOU, MY FRIEND.

"MAYBE I CAN ACTUALLY STILL GET SOMETHING THAT I HAD COMPLETELY, ENTIRELY GIVEN UP ON".
I'LL ADMIT IT, I CRIED..
THIS IS WHAT I THOUGHT LAST NIGHT...
"MAYBE I CAN TAKE THIS ACHIEVEMENT AND APPLY IT TO GOOD USE...
MAYBE I CAN LEARN TO LOVE A WOMAN AND START A FAMILY"..

THE ONLY THING I LACK...
IS CONFI-DENCE


...GO ON
...ONE DESPERATE, HAIL-MARY REQUEST.
THEREFORE I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE.
HAVING SEX WITH ME? JUST ONCE...
...WOULD YOU MIND...

I THINK IF I WENT TO A WHOREHOUSE, IT WOULD HAVE THE OPPOSITE EFFECT. IT'S TOO SCARY..
BUT WITH YOU, I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND ME.
...I UNDERSTAND THAT THE REQUEST I'M MAKING IS COMPLETELY OFF THE DEEP END..
BUT RIGHT NOW, I STRONGLY DESIRE THE TRUTH THAT "I HAD SEX"... IF JUST FOR AN INSTANT...
OF COURSE, I DON'T MIND IF YOU REFUSE YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND. IT WOULD ONLY BE NATURAL FOR YOU TO SAY NO..
I... I'M SORRY...
I I CAN'T DO THAT...

I SEE. WELL YOUR ANSWER IS THE SENSIBLE ONE...
I'M SORRY FORGET I BROUGHT IT UP..
..W. WELLLLLLL

I KNOW IT DOESN'T
MAKE UP FOR THE TOWEL
MAYBE I COULD STAND MY BOOBS MAYBE
ARE YOU SURE?
YES
WELL THEN, LET'S GET BUSY.
WHAT?! RIGHT NOW?!
YEP. TIME IS MONEY LET'S GET THAT SHIRT OFF.
Y-YOU WANT ME TO STRIP ?!

AHHH YES... YES, VERY NICE.
CAN I TRY THIS NOW, NAGUMO? PLEASE?
WHA- NO, WAIT! NOT THAT!
PLEASE, NAGUMO! JUST FOR AN INSTANT! THIS IS GOING TO CHANGE MY LIFE!!
AA... AHHHHH, NOOOOO!
AAAAH, YES! YES, VERY GOOD! ALMOST THERE, ALMOST THERE!
Even though I only wanted to shine a little bit of light into his darkness...

Even though I felt terrible guilt about the whole thing...
...as bad of an idea as I think it was?
注意
...is this really...
I don't think I've ever regretted doing something more...
God... I'm so sorry, Ogino...
...UGH... MY HEART... MY HEART IS KILLING ME...

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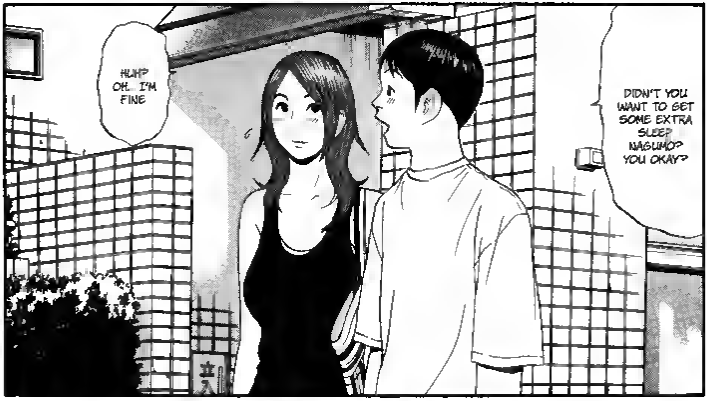
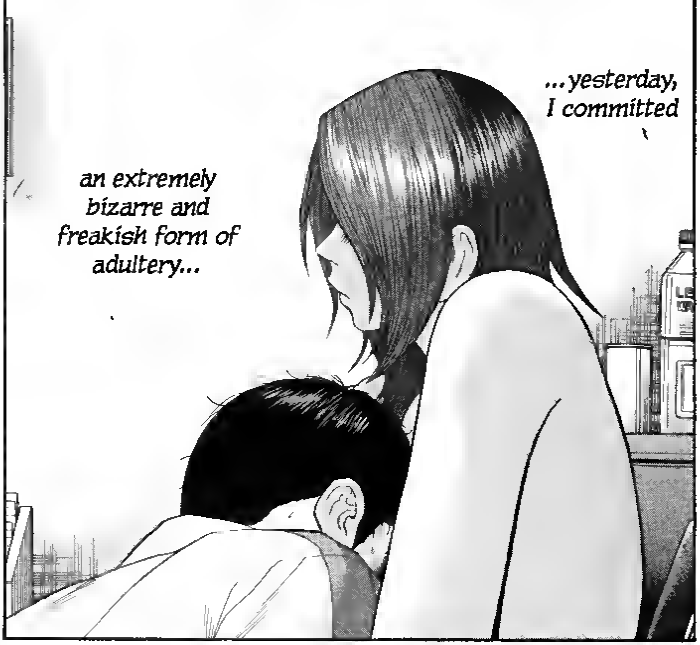
Chapter 46: Caught in the Act

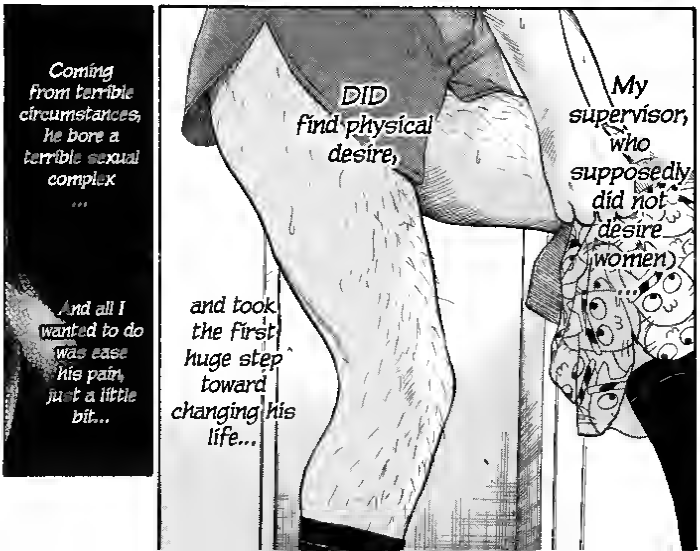
WOW. IT SEEMS LIKE AGES SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER EARLY IN THE MORNING.


HUHP OH. I'M FINE
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO GET SOME EXTRA SLEEP NASUMO? YOU OKAY?

Ughh...

...Ogino
...
STAFF ONLY
...I'm sorry...


...yesterday, I committed
an extremely bizarre and freakish form of adultery...


Coming from terrible circumstances, he bore a terrible sexual complex ...
And all I wanted to do was ease his pain, just a little bit...
DID find physical desire,
and took the first huge step toward changing his life...
My supervisor, who supposedly did not desire women)

It resulted in not just fondling of my breasts...
But nearly all the way as well...
W WHAT?
YES P!
OGINO !!
OGINO
WHAT'S WRONG NAGUMO ? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
YEAH, I JUST SAID THAT
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE SEEN EACH OTHER THIS EARLY

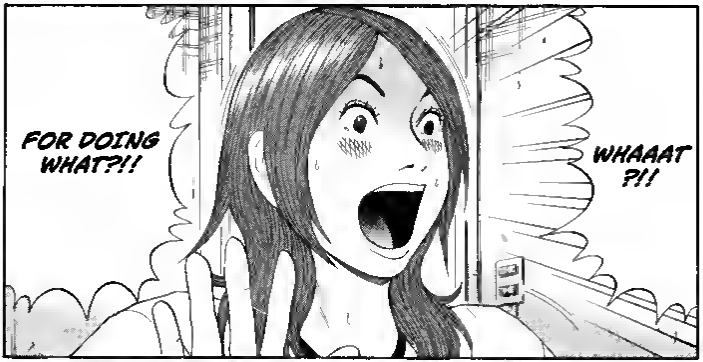
I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW
THAT I REALLY DO LOVE YOU WITH ALL OF MY HEART
WOULD YOU HATE ME, DESPITE THAT?
HUH? NO, OF COURSE I LOVE YOU
YOU'RE BEING WEIRD TODAY, NASUNO! DID SOMETHING HAPPEN AT COLLEGE?
I KNOW THAT WEIRD-ASS GUY AT YOUR WORK DID SOMETHING TO YOU! WHAT WAS IT?!
NO.
NOTHING OF THE SORT
Ugh, God... I'm so sorry, Ogino...
YOU SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT? NOT FEELING STRESSED?
I'LL BE FINE I LOVE YOU.
I'll never do it again.
Anyone would agree, I cheated on him...

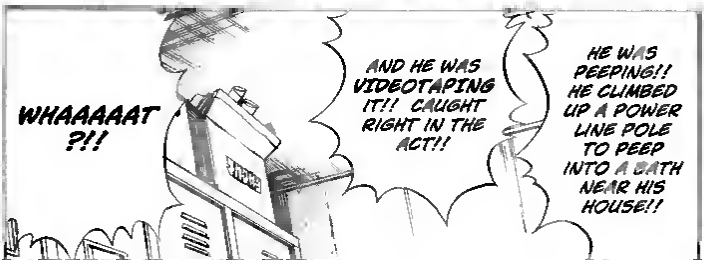
マルフ井ヲ

GOOD MORN-ING.

HUH? WH... WHAT'S THE MATTER ?!
OH MY GOD!! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS, NAGUMO!! COME LISTEN!
OH! SHE'S HERE! NAGUMO'S HERE!!

NIIBAYASHI WAS ARRESTED !!
JUST LAST NIGHT! RIGHT NEAR HIS HOUSE !!


WHAAAT ?!!
FOR DOING WHAT?!!


HE WAS PEEPING!! HE CLIMBED UP A POWER LINE POLE TO PEEP INTO A BATH NEAR HIS HOUSE!!
AND HE WAS VIDEOTAPING IT!! CAUGHT RIGHT IN THE ACT!!
WHAAAAAT ?!!

I GOT A CALL FROM THE POLICE YESTERDAY. THEY SEARCHED HIS ROOM AND FOUND TONS OF STUFF.
ALL KINDS OF HIDDEN CAMERA FOOTAGE FROM BATHS, TRAINS, HIGH SCHOOL CHANGING ROOMS, BATHROOMS, EVERYTHING ...
WHAT?! BUT... I THOUGHT HE HATED WOMEN!
THAT WAS A LIE, A TOTAL LIE!! HE WAS SUCH A COMMON HARASSER THAT THE STATION HAD BEEN KEEPING TABS ON HIM!!
HE COULD HAVE BEEN TAPING OUR CHANGING ROOM TOO, YOU KNOW!!
WHAT IF THEY'RE SELLING THAT STUFF OVER THE NET?! OH, HOW TERRIBLE!!
..HE ALSO HAS PARENTS ...

ACCORDING TO WHAT THE POLICE TELL ME...
HIS PARENTS ARE WEALTHY LANDOWNERS IN AKITA...
...SO HE WAS ACTUALLY A RICH BOY
...SO HE WASN'T BORN AND ABANDONED IN A TRAIN STATION BATHROOM.
...THAT WAS A LIE AND THAT TOWEL... HE JUST LIKED IT A LOT, I GUESS...
...SO... HE DIDN'T RUN AWAY FROM THE ORPHANAGE AT 15... TO LIVE ON THE STREET...
ABSOLUTELY NOT... AT 15 HE TOOK HIS PARENTS' MONEY... AND ENJOYED A FINE LIFE IN TOKYO.

THAT FUCKING LITTLE SHIT... TRICKED ME FOR 13 WHOLE YEARS...
IT WAS A LIE! IT WAS ALL.. ALL OF IT! A LIE!!
I... I'M SO SORRY, NAGUMO.. I TRUSTED HIM, AND I LET YOU DOWN. I JUST FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT THIS...
YES, AND HE USED THE SAME TRICK ON ALL OF THEM! "I'M SO LONELY!"
AND YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE THIS! BOSS CALLED UP SOME OF THE OLDER GIRLS WHO QUIT BEFORE, AND THEY ALL TOLD HIM HE HAD TRIED TO HARASS THEM!!

ARE YOU OKAY?! HE DIDN'T DO ANY-THING TO YOU, DID HE?!
DID HE FORCE YOU TO LET HIM TOUCH YOUR BREASTS OR ANY-THING?!!
...NO...
NOTHING OF THE SORT
OH, THAT'S SO GOOD TO HEAR! YOU SEE? I TOLD YOU THIS ONE KNEW WHAT SHE WAS DOING!!
IT'S OKAY, BOSS, NAGUMO SAYS NOTHING HAPPENED WITH HER!
Drool
God...

Please let a giant meteorite land on his head...
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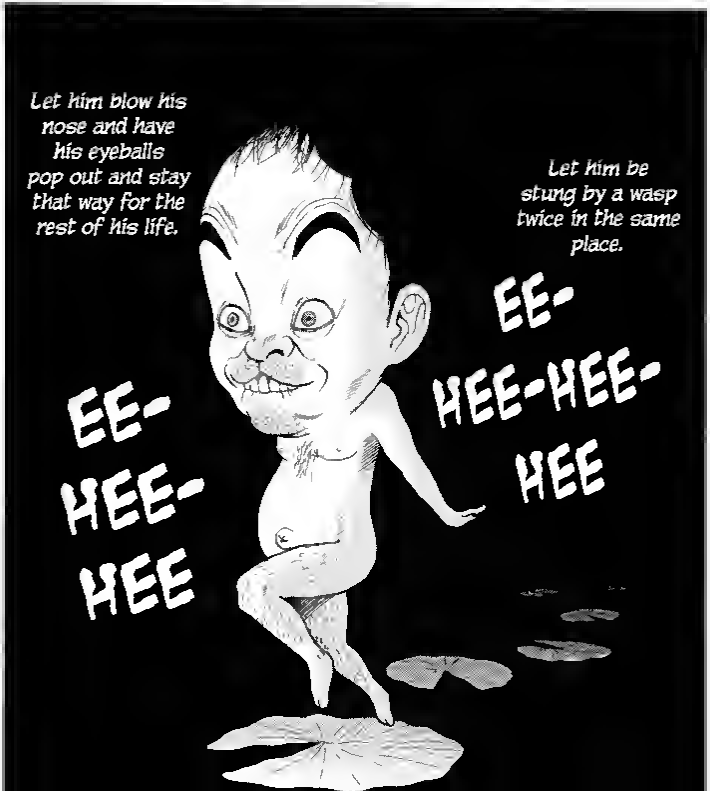
Let him blow his nose and have his eyeballs pop out and stay that way for the rest of his life.
Let him be stung by a wasp twice in the same place.
EE-HEE-HEE
EE-HEE-HEE-HEE

AND I AM AN *IDIOT*!!
DAMMIT!! LIFE SUCKS!!
Please don't hate me for what I've become!!
THAT FUCK ING ASS-HOLE!!
SOB, THIS SUCKS
Gaahhh! Save me, Ogino!

大学ガイド
進學ブック
HMMMM...
HM.
NAGUMO IS REALLY PART OF THE SOCIAL "ELITE"
..WELL, I HAD ALWAYS KIND OF KNOWN THAT.. BUT LOOKING AT HARD NUMBERS CONFIRMS IT
IT'LL NEVER GET INTO NAGUMO'S COLLEGE ..
..I CAN'T MANAGE IT... NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, WITH MY GRADES ..

YEAAAAH, WOOHOO, WOOT WOOT!!
If, next year... I manage to just barely squeak into some shitty school...
HMM... WAIT...
...THAT MEANS...
But what if Nagumo graduates and gets a job with some crazy super-conglomerate business?
We'll both be students, granted, with a huge educational gap... Our wonderful lives will continue...
HELLO, MAY I SPEAK SAITO-SAN?
CAN YOU FIT A GOLF BAG IN THERE?
MAN, PORSCHES ARE SWEET
She'll be surrounded by tons of rich boys and rising business elites.
Even smooth foreign capital types from all over the world.

Whew, it's hot
...or even worse, if I fail to get a job and work retail?
And if I'm just a boring-ass, sweaty sala-ryman for some dinky company?
Some of them might even mention marriage...
Some of them will undoubtedly try to ap-proach her personally.
WOULD I STAND A CHANCE... AGAINST ENEMIES LIKE THAT?!!
COULD... I BEAT THEM?!
IT TURNS OUT THAT NAGUMO AND I HAD JUST HAD A FIGHT?
...AND WHAT IF THE DAY BEFORE THAT ELITE HOTSHOT PROPOSES TO HER...
...DAMN... I'M TOTALLY SCREWED !!

CIGUATERA

vol.4 end

to be continued vol.5

CIGUATERA
Brought to you By **Mangascreener**
Hurting the readers is our specialty

あなたは、この本を読んで、どんな感想をおもちになりましたか。

編集部ではこの本についての読者のみなさまのご意見をおまちしています。

このつぎには、どんな作家のどんな漫画を読みたいとお考えですか。「ヤンマガKC」にしてほしいと思う作品がありましたら、「読後の感想」とあわせて、左記あてに、どしどしお知らせください。

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ヤンマガKC係

※なお、お送りいただいたお手紙・おハガキは、ご記入いただいた個人情報を含めて著者にお渡しすることがありますので、あらかじめご了解のうえ、お送りください。

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